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THE STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OF THE *MINISTERS* OF THE DIFFERENT PARISHES.

By Sir JOHN SINCLAIR, Bart.

VOLUME SECOND.

"*Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam.*"
Cicero de Orat. lib. ii.

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M,DCC,XCII.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE publication of the Statistical Account of Scotland, notwithstanding all the affiftance that could poffibly be procured, is attended with much greater difficulties, than can well be conceived. Yet, had it been the means of promoting alone, the valuable information, contained in the following pages, it is impoffible, that any poffeffed of the leaft particle of public fpirit, could have confidered his time and labour mifapplied. For, it is believed, that there is no work, now extant, which throws fuch light upon the actual ftate of human fociety, or furnifhes fo many ufeful hints, of the moft likely means of promoting its happinefs and improvement.

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ſatisfied every individual, of that fact, yet, ſuch is the bias in favour of former times, that nothing, but a fair compariſon, foundedon accurate ſurveys, at different periods, could have produced full conviction, in the minds of many. It is a fortunate circumſtance, therefore, that the late ingenious and learned Dr Webſter, was employed, many years ago, in ſimilar inquiries; and, that he drew up, in 1755, at the deſire of the late Preſident Dundas, for the information and the ſervice of Government, an account of the number of people in Scotland. In his introduction to that account *, he ſtates, "that he "had

* Dr Webſter's report was never printed. There are, however, ſeveral copies of it, in manuſcript, in private hands; and the moſt material parts of the information it contains, will be inſerted, in the courſe of this work. It may be ſufficient, at preſent, to give the following ſtatement, drawn up by that accurate calculator, of the ages of the inhabitants of Scotland, in 1755.

Age.	No. of perſons.
From 1 to 10	322,381
10 to 20	235,815
20 to 30	211,791
30 to 40	175,262
40 to 50	134,701
50 to 60	94,840
60 to 70	58,911
70 to 80	25,659
80 to 90	6,495
90 to 100	587
Total	1,265,380

" had eſtabliſhed, in 1743, a general correſpond-
" ence, both with clergy and laity, for preparing a
" ſcheme, which was afterwards ratified by Parlia-
" liament, for a proviſion for miniſters widows:
" That he had improved that correſpondence, for
" the purpoſe of procuring liſts, either of individuals,
" or, of perſons above a certain age, in the diffe-
" rent pariſhes of Scotland: That, when the liſts
" contained only thoſe above a certain age, he cal-
" culated the amount of the whole inhabitants, by
" the proportion, which they might be ſuppoſed
" to bear, to the number of ſouls, according to the
" moſt approved tables, compared with the fact in
" many parts of Scotland, where the miniſters, at
" his deſire, not only numbered their pariſhioners,
" but diſtinguiſhed their reſpective ages: So that,
" it is humbly apprehended, the account he has giv-
" en, of the number of the people, is ſufficiently
" exact to anſwer every valuable purpoſe." Doctor Webſter's well known character for accuracy, and the ſucceſs, with which his calculations have been uniformly attended, ought to ſatisfy every one, that the report he drew up may be ſafely relied on; and above all, he had every inducement to make the population of Scotland rather large, than otherwiſe; ſince the report was to be laid before the Government at the time, in whoſe eyes, he would naturally be inclined to place his native country, in as favourable and reſpectable a light as poſſible.

It is much to be regretted, that it was found impracticable, to include a greater number of parishes, in this volume. It contains, however, so many important districts, that the accounts could not, with any degree of propriety, be rendered more concise. There is reason, however, to believe, that, in future, every volume will contain from 80 to 100 parishes; so that, the whole work will be contained in about ten volumes. It now can hardly be doubted, that it will prove the completest survey of a kingdom, of which we have any knowledge; and, at the same time, will not exceed, either in price, or bulk, the topographical accounts given of many individual counties in England.

Nothing, therefore, is wanting, but a little farther perseverance and exertion, on the part of the clergy of Scotland, to complete a work,—which will be a monument of their own industry and abilities;—which will promote the improvement of their country, more rapidly than can be effected by any other means;—AND WHICH, BY GIVING MORE AUTHENTIC INFORMATION, REGARDING THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF POLITICAL SOCIETY, THAN EVER WAS KNOWN BEFORE, MAY VERY MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE GENERAL HAPPINESS OF THE SPECIES.

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CONTENTS.

No.	Name of the parish.	Population in 1755.	Ditto in 1791.	Increase.	Decrease.	Page.
1	Torthorwald	584	660	76	0	1
2	Dornock	716	738	22	0	14
3	Kirkmahoe	1098	1200	102	0	30
4	Lochrutton	564	528	0	36	36
5	Kirkcolm	765	945	180	0	46
6	Stonykirk	1151	1365	214	0	51
7	Colmonell	1814	1100	0	714	57
8	Galston	1013	1577	564	0	71
9	Kilmarnock	4403	6776	2373	0	84
10	Machlin	1169	1800	631	0	109
11	Eaglesham	1103	1000	0	103	119
12	Newabbey	634	649	15	0	125
13	Nielston	1274	2330	1056	0	141
14	Renfrew	1091	1628	537	0	166
15	Hamilton	3815	5017	1202	0	177
16	Blantyre	496	1040	544	0	213
17	Stonehouse	823	1060	237	0	223
18	Libberton	708*	750	42	0	233
		23221	30163	7795	853	

* The minister supposes, that these were only examinables, and not souls; but it was Dr Webster's practice, when examinables

No.	Name of the parish	Population in 1755.	Ditto in 179⅘.	Increaſe.	Decreaſe.	Page.
	Brought over	23221	30163	7795	853	
19	Kirkpatrick-Durham	699	1000	301	0	249
20	Newton upon Ayr	581†	1689	1108	0	262
21	Kirkintilloch	1696	2639	943	0	275
22	Moffat	1612	1600	0	12	285
23	Galaſhiels	998	914	0	84	299
24	Cockpen	640	1123	483	0	317
25	Crailing	387	672	285	0	322
26	Morham	345	190	0	155	333
27	Glencairn	1794	1700	0	94	339
28	Whittingham	714	655	0	59	345
29	Largs	1164	1139	0	25	360
30	Eccleſmachan	330	215	0	115	367
31	Dalſerf	765	1100	335	0	371
32	Dunoon	1757	1683	0	74	383
33	Wilton	936	905	0	31	394
34	Monimail	884	1101	217	0	397
35	Cults	449	534	85	0	407
36	Colleſſie	989	949	0	40	416
37	Denny	1392	1400	8	0	420
38	Burntiſland	1390	1100	0	290	423
39	Selkirk	1793	1700	0	93	434
		44536	54171	11560	1925	

bles, or thoſe about 8 years of age, were expreſsly returned, to make an addition, it is believed, in the proportion of about 9 to 11.

† In Dr Webſter's report, the pariſhes of Monkton, Preſtwick, and Newton upon Ayr, are ſaid, in 1755, to have contained 1163 ſouls, one half of which, it is ſuppoſed, might belong to Newton upon Ayr.

No.	Name of the parish.	Population in 1755.	Ditto in 1791.	Increase.	Decrease.	Page.
	Brought over	44536	54171	11560	1925	
40	Fortingal	3859	3914	55	0	449
41	Blair-Atholl	3257	3120	0	137	461
42	Careſton	269	260	0	9	483
43	Kinnell	761	830	69	0	491
44	Craig	935	1314	379	0	495
45	Kirkden	563	727	164	0	505
46	Mid-Marr	979	945	0	34	516
47	Keith-Hall	1114	838	0	276	527
48	Kilmuir	1572	2065	493	0	547
49	Roſkeen	1958	1700	0	258	558
50	Mid & South Yell	986	1422	436	0	565
	Total	60789	71306	13156	2639	
Population in 1755			60789			
Increaſe in 1791			10517			

CALCULATION.

IT appears, on the whole, that in 50 country pariſhes in Scotland, taken indiſcriminately, from one end of the kingdom to the other, there is an increaſe, ſince 1755, of 10,517 ſouls; which is at the rate of 210 to a pariſh, or 189,000 in the 900 country pariſhes of North Britain: And, as the great towns (Edinburgh, Glaſgow, Paiſley, Aberdeen, Dundee, &c.) have probably increaſed to the amount of 210,000, the total increaſe in Scotland, in leſs than 40 years, will be about 400,000, and the total population about 1,700,000 ſouls.

ERRATA.

In ſome copies of the Tables of Mortality fronting the Title,
Table II. line ult. c olmn 17, *for* 10, *read* 9.
Table III. line ult. column 17, *for* 39, *read* 38.
Small table annexed to Table I. line 7, *for* 4, *read* 5.

Page	Line
50	14 *for* 1705, *read* 1745.
54	16 *for* M'Donald, *read* M'Dowal.
162	26 *for* extroardinary, *read* extraordinary.
177	5 *for* purſued after, *read* purſued.
264	27 *for* (in a few copies) Newton ca-ſtle, *read* Newton caſtle.
274	12 *for* ly, *read* lie.
336	31 *for* 745, *read* 345.
405	27 *for* Markinck, *read* Markinch
508	14 *for* 160 *read* 164.
516	6 *for* weſt, *read* north.
541	22 *for* ring, *read* riſing.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND.

PART II.

NUMBER I.

PARISH OF TORTHORWALD.

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES M'MILLAN.

Origin of the Name, Situation, &c.

TORTHORWALD, the preſent name of the pariſh, is ſuppoſed to ſignify the Tower of Thor in the wood. The name is evidently of Saxon original, and derived from Thor, the Jupiter of the Saxon deities. It lies in the county, preſbytery, and ſynod of Dumfries. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Mouſwald on the S. of Lochmaben on the E. of Tinwald on the N. and N. W. and of Dumfries on the S. W. The weſtern part of the pariſh is very low, being part of that extenſive tract known by the name of Lochar Moſs: Next to this are paſtures and meadows, frequently overflowed: Then ſandy ground of various breadth; to the eaſt a fine till ſoil, about a mile broad: Then green and arable braes, banks, and hillocks, interſperſed with wet clay grounds and moors. At the eaſtern extremity of the pariſh, the ground

riſes in high black hills; one, called the Beacon hill, affords perhaps the moſt extenſive view, round the horizon, of any riſing ground in this part of the country, Criffel excepted. There are about 4400 acres, including 900 of moſs, in the pariſh; the inhabited part of which, with the exception of a few ſcattered families, is a ſquare of 2¼ miles, in the middle of which ſtand the caſtle, the manſe, and the church.

River and Moſs.—The river Lochar, which, for 7 miles, divides this pariſh from that of Dumfries, is about 25 feet broad at a medium; and ſo much on a level, in its courſe through Lochar Moſs, that it has a deſcent of only 11 feet in that ſpace, which meaſures 12 miles in a direct line. It contains pike, perch, trout, and eel; ſome of the pike weigh 20 lbs. ſome eels 3 lbs. and a few of the trout 5 lbs. Several otters frequent this river, and make great havock among the pike. Wild duck and teal abound here all the year round, and many wild geeſe viſit this place in ſtormy winters. A few ſwans alſo come hither, and ſeveral bitterns and herons. In the adjacent moſs and meadows, curlews, plovers, and moor-fowl breed. Lochar moſs*, it is well known, is a tract of 12 miles in length, and betwixt 2 and 3 in breadth, extending down to Solway firth. That this moſs was once an arm of the ſea, appears from ſeveral circumſtances: Sea-ſand and ſleech are found at the bottom; and ſometimes boats, almoſt entire, with anchors, cables, and oars. Tinwald iſles, at the N. W. extremity of the pariſh, are ſaid, in a Spaniſh hiſtory, to have been the beſt harbour in Scotland; and Dumfries, which lies at the back of the moſs, has been tranſlated by Latin hiſtorians, Dorſum freti, the back of the firth. There is a ſaying common here, that this tract was,

"Firſt a wood, and next a ſea,
"Now a moſs, and ever will be."

Oak,

* See Vol. I. p. 159.

Oak, fir, birch, and hazel-trees, the latter with nuts and huſks, are frequently dug up in many parts of the moſs: Several of theſe trees are very large and freſh, and are applied by carpenters to various purpoſes of their trade. Fragments of the firs are cut in ſmall pieces, and uſed for kindling fires; they burn amazingly, and are frequently carried to Dumfries for that purpoſe. This moſs is bounded on the eaſt by four pariſhes, Tinwald, Torthorwald, Mouſwald, and Ruthwald, all terminating in *wald*, which in the Saxon ſignifies a wood. It is a tract of above 12 miles in length, generally fine land, about 2 miles broad, of a gentle weſtern expoſure, which muſt, from its good properties, have been early cultivated, and indeed it is reported to have been antiently the place of the greateſt reſort in the country.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—From 1764 to 1790, a period of 27 years, 135 males, and 145 females, in all 280 individuals, have died in this pariſh, 54 of whom were between 70 and 80, and 46 above 80 years of age, ſo that the climate, it ſhould ſeem, is very healthy, and favourable to longevity. In regard to the prevailing diſtempers, that will beſt appear from the tables of mortality, during the period above-mentioned, to be inſerted in the appendix.

Proprietors, &c.—There are only two heritors, the Duke of Queenſberry, and Sir Robert Grierſon, of Lag, neither of whom reſide. The rental of the pariſh in 1756, was L. 610: 8: 8; in 1790 it amounted to L. 1357; and in 1791 roſe to L. 1850. The beſt croft land ſets at 21s. 22s. and 23s. per acre, ſometimes more; the ſecond beſt at 15s. the third beſt at 10s. The rent of a common houſe is not above 10s. at an average; but then the tenants are bound to

uphold them. No houſes are unoccupied. The land in general is better calculated for grain than paſture. A good deal of clover and rye graſs is raiſed; but the mode of cultivation hitherto uſed, is rather of the old than of the new and moſt approved kind. Formerly the farmers were accuſtomed to pay their rents by their big or bear crops, and by ſelling peats in Dumfries; but, for 20 years paſt, they have in a great meaſure given up the ſale of peats; and of late have taken to ſowing barley inſtead of bear. Oats and barley are their chief grains; they raiſe but little wheat, peaſe, rye, and ſcarcely any turnips. A large quantity of potatoes is annually raiſed, and this is the only article by which the grounds are cleaned, fallow being very ſeldom practiſed. Till about 1770 the farmers of Torthorwald and Roucan had a conſiderable part of their lands at a diſtance from their dwellings; on this account the late Duke of Queenſberry removed no leſs than 25 farmers from theſe villages to the more remote parts of the pariſh, where good farm houſes were erected; for which, his Grace gave them conſiderable aſſiſtance, and at the ſame time incloſed almoſt his whole grounds with ſtone dikes and thorn hedges, at the expence of above L. 2000. The thorns have generally ſucceeded, but the ſtone of which the dikes were built, being of the flatey kind, they have fallen down very much.——The late Sir William Grierſon, of Lag, was ſo attentive to have his lands clear of weeds, that he held *gool* (chryſanthemum) *courts* as long as he lived, for the purpoſe of fining the farmers, on whoſe growing crop three heads or upwards of that weed were found.

Implements of Huſbandry, and Manures.—About 1750, there were very few carts in the pariſh, trail cars being then generally uſed for leading goods; dung was carried out in creels; hay led in truſſes; and peats in large ſacks, upon horſes backs; but, for a conſiderable time paſt, carts have been uſed for all theſe purpoſes,

purpoſes, ſo that there are now 88 in the pariſh; there are alſo 44 ploughs of the ordinary kind, drawn by 2 horſes each. Lime from Comlongan, 8 miles diſtance, is much uſed as a manure, and with good effect. Marle was formerly found on the edge of Torthorwald moor, but the pit is now exhauſted.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.—The preſent prices of proviſions and labour are the ſame as in Tinwald and Holywood pariſhes.—In 1730 the common half yearly wages of a male houſe ſervant, were 22s 6d. in 1739, they were 23s. in 1744, and for ſeveral years afterwards, 30s. and a pair of ſhoes.—The ordinary wages of a women ſervant, for the ſame ſpace, were then 10s.—At theſe periods, including victuals, a wright's daily wages was 6d. a taylor's 4d. a labourer's 3d. or 4d. a mower's, 1s.—A hen ſold for 4d. (now for 9d)—eggs 1½d. the dozen,—butter at 4d. per. lib. of 24 oz.—pork, 4d. per. lib. of 16 oz. (the ſame price it bears at preſent, becauſe it was formerly very ſcarce)—an ordinary beef cow at Martinmas, 2 guineas,—a good leg of lamb, 7d.—an ordinary leg of mutton, 14d.—The beſt horſe in the pariſh, in 1749, was ſold for ſeven guineas.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Several in the pariſh employ themſelves in ſpinning factory-yarn, both lint and tow *.—There are four licenſed alehouſes in the pariſh, to which, for the moſt part idle and looſe perſons reſort to drink whiſky. Theſe houſes greatly hurt the morals of many, and in various reſpects deeply injure the intereſts of the country. Every effort of the legiſlature, ſhould, therefore, be uſed to reduce their numbers, and to keep them under the ſtricteſt diſcipline.

* *Factory* yarn, is from flax given out by the agent of any *manufacturer*, to be ſpun by the country people.

cipline.—The great military road from Gretna, to Dumfries and Port Patrick, paſſes through the ſouth part of the pariſh, and a toll-bar was erected on it laſt year. A turnpike road from Dumfries to Lochmaben goes through the center of the pariſh, on which the firſt toll-bar ſet up in Nithſdale, was placed in 1789. The ſtatute labour in this pariſh is commuted for L. 22:5 per. annum.—There are plenty of good ſprings and running water in the pariſh. A well in the moor of Torthorwald, ſuppoſed to be of the chalybeate kind, is reckoned ſalutary in ſcorbutic diſorders, and in gravelliſh complaints. ——There is abundance of peats in the pariſh, but no coal.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Poor, &c.—The church, which was built in 1782, at the expence of above L. 400, will contain 500 perſons, and is well executed. The manſe was built in 1738. The ſtipend, as augmented in 1756, amounts to L. 70. per annum, including L. 3:6:8, for communion elements; and the miniſter has alſo a glebe of above 10 acres, valued at L. 11 *per. annum.* The duke of Queenſberry is patron. The poor do not exceed 4, 5, or 6 in number, and are ſupplied quarterly at the rate of 5s or 6s each, in ordinary caſes; but ſome of them occaſionally get a great deal more. The collections for their ſupport are about L. 7 *per annum*, with the intereſt of a fund of L. 150, which is increaſing every year. —The annual ſalary of the parochial ſchoolmaſter, including the intereſt of a capital of L. 210, is L. 17:14:5$\frac{1}{12}$, beſides fees for teaching. There have been 80 ſcholars at one time, at this ſchool in the winter ſeaſon; but of late it has not been ſo full as uſual, a private ſchool having been ſet up in the village of Roucan.

Population.—The population has of late increaſed conſiderably, as appears from the following ſtatements:

	Below 8 years of age,	Above 8.	Seceders.	Total.
In 1742, there were	85	440	15	540
1781	90	450	25	565
1790	103	523	30	660

Table of Births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Yearly Average.
For 20 years, ending 1750	122	119	241	12
1751 to 1770	131	134	265	13¼
1771 to 1790	149	129	278	13¾
	402	382	784	13

Table of deaths and marriages.

	Deaths.				
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Annual Average.	Coup. mar.
From 1734 to 1753 both inclusive	86	90	176	8¾	55
1754 to 1773	88	97	185	9¼	64
1774 to 1790	85	95	180	10½	41
	259	282	541	9½	160

TABLE

TABLE,

Shewing the number of deaths in 29 years, and the age at which each individual died respectively, in periods of 10 years, from 20 to 50 excepted.

	Number of Deaths.
From their birth to 10 years of age.	66
20	31
50	41
70	70
80	66
90	29
100	3
above 100	2
Total	308

Present State of the Population.

	The Village of Roucan.	Village of Torthorwald.	Country part of the Parish.	Total.
Individuals	143	135	382	660
Families	41	34	77	152
Average number in a family	3½	4	5	4½
Minister			1	1
Surgeon	1			1
Schoolmasters	1	1		2
Farmers	11	13	44	68
Tradesmen	14	13	9	36
Apprentices	6	1	6	13
Blacksmiths	1	1	1	3
Mason	1			1

	Village of Roucan.	Village of Torthorwald.	Country part of the parish.	Total.	
Wrights	2	2	1	5	
Miller	0	1	0	1	
Shoemakers	5	1	2	8	
Weavers	4	4	4	12	
Taylors	0	2	2	4	
Slater	0	1	0	1	
Clogger and Cooper	0	1	0	1	
Chapmen	0	0	2	2	
Male-ſervants	3	4	21	28	
Female do.	9	5	19	33	
Labourers	2	4	9	15	
Cottagers	13	6	26	45	
Males born out of the pariſh	10	15	78	103	
Females, do.	22	23	94	139	
Farmers, do.	2	6	16	24	
Antiburgh. Seceders	11	2	9	22	
Cameronians	2	1	1	4	
Preſbytery of Relief	0	0	4	4	
Married couples	15	17	46	78	
Married perſons	30	34	92	156	
Men above 18, never married				90	
Women, do.				120	600
Widowers				16	
Widows				30	
Perſons under 18 years of age				248	
Males				313	660
Females				347	
Perſons above 80 years of age				14	
Average number of children to each marriage				$4\frac{1}{2}$	
Proportion of deaths to the whole population for the laſt 10 years				1 to $54\frac{3}{10}$	
Population in 1755, according to Dr Webſter				584	

Of

Of married women, there are only three barren, two of whom are ſiſters. Since 1756, ten women have had twins, of whom ſeven lived in the pariſh of Torthorwald. Of the 14 aged perſons in the pariſh, 3, *anno* 1790, were in the 80th year of their age, and the reſt 80 and upwards. Of theſe, 5 were men, and 9 women. One of the men was born in February, 1697.

Number of Horſes, &c.—There, are, in the pariſh, 120 horſes; 650 head of black cattle; 280 common, or ſmall ſheep; principally fed on the hills, (about 30 on the farm of Drummoor excepted), and ſmall parcels of petts, as they are commonly called, or half mugs, which run among the milk cows, greatly to the injury of the cow paſture, and to the ruin of the low ſtone dikes, and thorn hedges.

Antiquities.—This pariſh, was, it ſhould ſeem, of ſome military conſequence,

" In ancient time, when Britain's trade was arms,
" And the lov'd muſic of her youth alarms:"

For it contained a caſtle, and two Britiſh camps, the veſtiges of which are ſtill conſpicuous. The former, ſaid, by tradition, to have been erected by a ſhoemaker, in the pariſh, named Skrimple, or Skriry-hard-ſcraes, by means of a treaſure he found whilſt digging his garden.——It is ſtill ſtanding, though in a ruinous condition. The ſituation is beautiful, on the top of a ſmall bank. It is ſuppoſed to have been built in the thirteenth century; and appears to have been very ſtrongly fortified. The two camps are ſituated about a mile diſtant from each other, one to the weſt, and the other to the eaſt of the caſtle, each being about 30 yards in diameter; ſurrounded in ſome parts with two, and in other places with three

three, large trenches. In Torthorwald moor there is a cairn; and a ring or circle formed of ſmall ſtones.

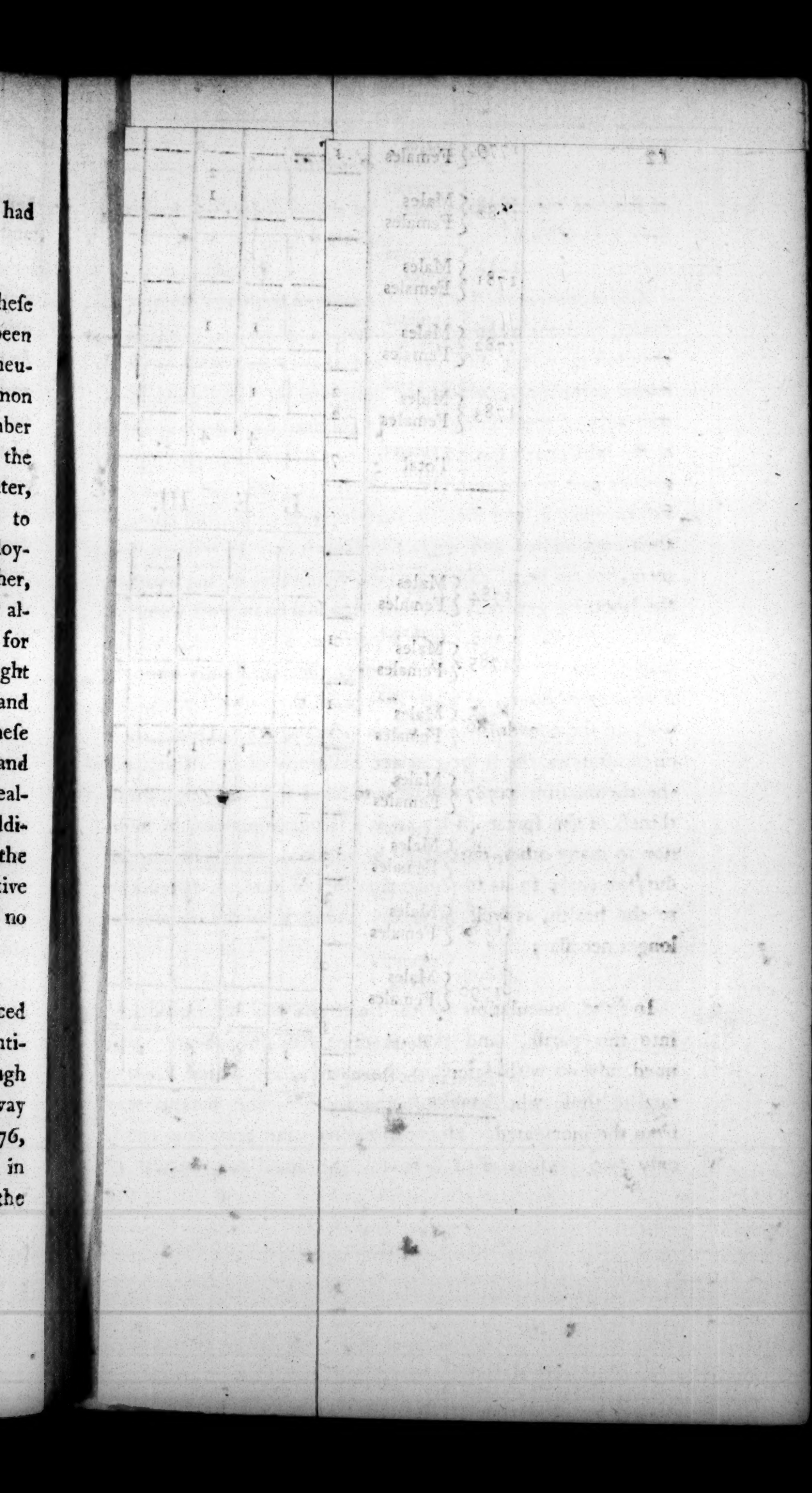
Character, &c. of the People.—The inhabitants of this pariſh are generally very ſober, honeſt, and induſtrious; and live comfortably and at an eaſy rate. They feed much on potatoes and on pork. It is very common for the cottagers to buy a pig, which they fatten up for ſome months, and then kill. A few of the men are ſix feet high, and ſome above that ſtature; a conſiderable number are greatly above the common ſize; and their complexion is tolerable. None enliſt in the army; but ſeveral enter into the navy. In 1750, five farmers emigrated from this pariſh to the iſle of Bute, where they engaged in farms, but about 10 years afterwards, 3 of them returned to Torthorwald and the neighbourhood. This pariſh has produced 10 preachers of the goſpel ſince 1762. Many young men have gone abroad in different lines, ſeveral of whom have been ſucceſsful, and have done honour to the place of their nativity.

Bills of Mortality.—In forming the tables of mortality, (ſee appendix) it was intended, in as far as conſiſted with accuracy, to preſerve the common names by which the diſeaſes are known. Where theſe are either not ſufficiently diſtinctive, or where one name is uſed to expreſs more than one kind of diſeaſe, numbers are added expreſive of the genus they belong to in Cullen's Noſology. No diſeaſes are mentioned for children under one year of age, unleſs they have died of the ſmall pox, meaſles, or chincough, and therefore they are put into one column. The column marked "Internal chronic complaints, &c." are caſes where no other definite name could be thought of, and where they are in general thought to ariſe from obſtructions

of ſome of the viſcera. Many of them under this head had been *bed-rid* for a long time before they died.

Obſervations on the Tables of Mortality.—It appears from theſe tables, that the aſthma, which carried off 36 ſouls, has been the moſt prevalent diſtemper, and that 18 have died of rheumatic complaints, within the ſame period. The uncommon mortality of theſe diſeaſes was occaſioned by a great number of the inhabitants having been in the practice of employing the greater part of the ſummer, and even a good part of winter, firſt in making, and then in carrying peats from the moſs to their own houſes, and for ſale in Dumfries. In this employment, beſides being expoſed to the viciſſitudes of the weather, the labourers generally had their legs ſoaked in moſs water almoſt all the day; and, as they performed this work, not for wages, but on their own account, they conſtantly wrought ſeveral extra hours, at a diſtance from their own homes, and without the convenience of warm victuals, &c. Under theſe circumſtances, the frequency and malignity of the aſthma and the rheumatiſm need not be wondered at; and the unhealthineſs of this ſpecies of labour is a ſtrong argument, in addition to many others that might be adduced, for aboliſhing the duty on coal; ſo as to render that ſort of fuel, ſo deſtructive to the health, as well as to the induſtry of the people, no longer neceſſary.

In 1776, inoculation for the ſmall pox was firſt introduced into this pariſh, and that practice has ſince been continued, always with ſafety to the perſons inoculated, though fatal to thoſe who were infected by it in the natural way from the inoculated. Hence in twelve years preceding 1776, only two perſons died here of the ſmall-pox, whilſt in the



TABLES OF MORTALITY in the Pariſh of Torthorwald, County of Dumfries, North Britain, for 27 years, ending anno 1790, drawn up by the Rev. Mr James M'Millan, Miniſter of that Pariſh, for Sir John Sinclair's Statiſtical Account of Scotland.

N. B. The numbers annexed to the names of the different diſeaſes, refer to the genus they belong to in Cullens' Noſology.

TABLE I.

		Fever, 4, 5.	Small pox, 26.	Meaſles	Conſumption.	Inflammation of the ſtomach and bowels, 15. 16.	Rheumatiſm	Internal chronic complaints, obſtructed viſcera	Chincough	Apoplexy	Palſy	Aſthma, 55, 56.	Looſeneſs, 61.	Dropſy, 75, 79.	Jaundice, 91.	Children under 1 year of age, diſeaſe unknown	Decay of age.	Child-bed	Unknown diſeaſes	Accidents	Abſceſs	Cancer	Cholic, 59.	Inflammation of the liver	Atrophy, 70.	Scrophula	Idiotiſm ſome years before death	Iſchuria, 124.	Teething	Worm fever	Carious ulcer	Rupture	Fits	Inflammation	Males	Females
1764	Males	2	1								1	2					3		1															10	5
	Females	3														1	1																			
1765	Males											1		1																				2	4
	Females													1			3																		
1766	Males											1		1					1															3	5
	Females						1					2	1				1																		
1767	Males				1			1				3				1																		6	4
	Females						1	1						2																					
1768	Males	1			1									1			1			1														5	2
	Females										1		1																						
1769	Males					1			1		1					1																		4	10
	Females	3			1						1	1				2	2																		
1770	Males	1			1									1							1													5	4
	Females		1							1		1				1			1																
1771	Males					1					1	1					1								1									4	4
	Females										2					1																			
1772	Males										1	2				1																		4	8
	Females				3						1			2			1	1																	
1773	Males			1	1							1				1	1																	5	6
	Females				1								1	1	1		1		1																
Total		10	2	1	9	2	2	2	1	1	9	15	3	10	1	9	15	1	4	1	1	1												48	52

—Total 100

The perſons in Tab. I. died at the following periods of life.

Years of age	Males	Females	Total
to 1	4	5	9
1 —— 2	2	0	2
2 —— 4	1	0	1
5 —— 10	1	1	2
10 —— 15	1	1	2
15 —— 20	4	3	7
20 —— 30	2	3	5
30 —— 40	3	2	5
40 —— 50	5	5	10
50 —— 60	4	4	8
60 —— 70	5	5	10
70 —— 80	10	16	26
80 —— 90	4	5	9
90 —— 100	2	0	2
100 ——	0	2	2
	48	52	100

TABLE II.

1774	Males																							1			1							1	7
	Females						2		1	1					1		1																		

The perſons in Tab. II. died at the following periods of life.

| | | |

twelve ſucceeding years, twelve were carried off by that diſeaſe. This tends to prove the neceſſity of making the practice of inoculation as general as poſſible, where it is at all adopted, otherwiſe it may be productive of harm, inſtead of good.

NUMBER

NUMBER II.

PARISH OF DORNOCK.

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By *the Rev.* MR. JAMES SMAILL.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

DORNOCK is a ſmall pariſh, lying in the preſbytery of Annan, in the ſynod and the ſhire of Dumfries. It is two miles and a half in length, and in general about two and a half in breadth. It would be nearly ſquare, were it not for a ſmall detached part, conſiſting of three farms, almoſt quite unconnected with the reſt of the pariſh, lying along the banks of the Kirtle. It is bounded by the pariſh of Annan on the weſt and north, by Kirkpatrick-Fleming on the north eaſt, by Gretna on the eaſt, and by the Solway Firth on the ſouth. Its name is probably derived from the oak woods, that formerly grew there. *Tor* or *Dor*, in the Celtic language, ſignifying, an oak, or wood, and *nock*, a know, or hill. The pariſh, however, is remarkably level, having no mountains, and few riſing grounds 60 feet above high-water mark. The ſoil is in general fertile and produces very good crops when properly cultivated. But the greater part of the pariſh, conſiſteth of loam upon a ſtony clay, or brick earth. So cloſs a bottom makes it rather a damp country in winter. The air is healthy, though rather moiſt and chilly. There are no local diſtempers peculiar to the diſtrict. Conſumptions ſometimes prevail, and occaſionally

ly fevers and the ſmall-pox; the laſt of which is rendered much leſs fatal ſince inoculation has been ſo generally practiſed.

Rivers, Fiſhings, &c.—The ſmall river, Kirtle, touches the north eaſt point of the pariſh, and the Solway Firth, or Booneſs Wath, as it is called, is its ſouthern boundery *. In the Kirtle, there are ſome common trouts, eels, pike, perch, and the like; but theſe are not in ſuch quantities as to be an object of much profit to the inhabitants. The fiſhings in the Solway Firth, however, are more conſiderable, and merit a more particular detail, both on account of the income they produce, and the ſingular modes of fiſhing, which are adopted; a deſcription of which, may furniſh uſeful hints to proprietors in other parts of the kingdom. The modes are four.—1. With *leiſters*: a kind of four pronged fork, with the prongs turned a little to one ſide, having a ſhaft 20 or 24 feet long. Theſe they run along the ſand on their edge, or throw them when they ſee any fiſh. In this manner they often wound and kill great quantities. Some of our people are very dexterous at this exerciſe, and will ſometimes upon horſeback throw a leiſter, and kill at a great diſtance. This is alſo called *ſhauling*; as it is generally practiſed, when the tide is almoſt ſpent, and the waters turned ſhallow.—2. A ſecond mode of fiſhing, called *haaving* or *hauling*, is ſtanding in the ſtream, either at the flowing or ebbing of the tide, with a pock net fixed to a kind of frame, conſiſting of a beam, 12 or 14 feet long, having three ſmall ſticks or rungs fixed into it, one in the middle, and one at each end, about four feet long each; to theſe the net is fixed by

* Wath ſeems to ſignify a ford, or place that may be forded or waded.

by a ſmall line; and with this frame they ſtand, having the mouth of the net, which is fixed to the frame, oppoſed to the ſtream, and the points of the rungs fixed upon the bottom, holding firmly the middle of the beam: ſo that, whenever a fiſh ſtrikes againſt the net, they, by means of the middle rung, inſtantly haul up the mouth of the net above water, and the fiſh which lies caught in the pock or hollow of the net, they kill with an inſtrument kept for that purpoſe. A dozen or twenty men will ſometimes go in, and ſtand a-breaſt in the ſtream, at this kind of fiſhing, up to the middle, in ſtrong running water, for three or four hours together. A company of this kind is called a Mell.——3. Another method is called *pock-net fiſhing*: This is performed by fixing ſtakes or ſtours (as they are called) in the ſand, either in the channel of the river, or in the ſand which is dry at low water. Theſe ſtours are fixed in a line, acroſs the tide-way, at the diſtance of 40 inches from each other, about 3 feet high above the ſand, and between every two of theſe ſtours is fixed a pock-net, tied by a rope to the top of each ſtour. The under part of the net is made faſt to a hank or ring, made of twiſted willow or hazle, and ſlipt on to the ſtour on which it is moveable. Theſe pock-nets are made of ſtrong twine, and the mouths of them are about 3 feet wide both ways: They are of a wide meſh, ſo that the fiſh coming up rapidly with the ſtream, inſtantly run their heads into one of theſe meſhes, where they ſtick, and ſo are unable to diſengage themſelves; and as ſoon as the tide is ſpent, the fiſhermen go in and take them. Five of theſe pocks are called a clout; and ten clout of nets are the quantity allowed to each fiſherman, who has only one ſhare in the fiſhing. They have alſo the diſtances regulated, ſo that one fiſherman muſt not ſet his nets within a certain diſtance of another.——4. The fourth method is called *raiſe-net fiſhing*. This is by far the moſt profitable mode, yielding a rent of from 2

to L. 300 a year, within the bounds of this pariſh. It is ſo called, from the lower part of the net riſing and floating upon the water with the flowing tide, and ſetting down with the ebb. This is alſo called *lake-fiſhing*, from the nets being always ſet in lakes, or hollow parts of the tide-way, and never either in the channel of the river, or on the plain ſand. The ſtakes or ſtours uſed for theſe nets, are in general, 10 or 12 feet long, and fixed in a row, acroſs a lake, or hollow, at about 5 or 6 feet diſtance. After theſe are ſtrongly faſtened to the bottom, by being driven pretty deep into the ſand, a ſtrong rope is paſſed along, and fixed to the head of each ſtour; to this rope is fixed a net of about 9 or 10 feet deep, bound alſo at the bottom with a ſtrong rope, but not faſtened to the ſtours below. In the middle between every two ſtours, is faſtened to the upper rope, a ſmall ſtick about the ſize of thoſe uſed by coopers for hoops to large veſſels, and about 12 feet long. The other end of theſe ſticks are faſtened to the foot rope of the net which keeps it quite tight, the lower end of courſe, riſes with the net, and floats on the water with the flowing tide: but, when the tide begins to turn, theſe ſticks are preſſed down to the bottom by the returning or back-going ſtream, and ſo take the net along with them, and prevent any fiſh getting down the lake, till the tide is ſpent or gone out, when the fiſhermen, or the perſons to whom the nets belong, come every 12 hours to ſee what is left. But if the lake does not ebb quite dry, they have to draw the lake with a draught-net, to take out the fiſh. In this manner, great quantities of ſalmon, ſea-trout, herrings, cod, flounders, ſturgeon, &c. are ſometimes taken.

The fiſh caught here are inſtantly ſold, and almoſt, always for ready money. Fiſh carriers are conſtantly waiting at the drawing of the nets, in order to buy and carry away the fiſh, as ſoon as they are taken. They carry them to the large manu-

facturing towns, in the north and weſt of England; and ſome of them are ſent even to London.——The ſalmon is ſold from 1s. per. lb. down to 2½d. according to the ſeaſon of the year, and the ſcarcity of fiſh. The herrings and ſea-trouts are ſold in proportion, rather at a lower rate. Cod are generally ſold at Carliſle and the neighbourhood, at about 1½d. or 2d. per. lb. The flounders are bought by the dozen, at from 4d. to 1s. according to their ſize and ſcarcity. In July, 1789, there was a conſiderable herring fiſhing, but we ſeldom have them in ſuch quantities, as to merit much attention.

The Solway firth is navigable at high water, for veſſels of 100 tons burden, five or ſix miles to the eaſtward of this; and veſſels may ly in ſafety any where alone the ſhore, being all flat ſand, without rocks. The tides are pretty regular. Spring tides riſe about 25 feet above low-water mark, and ordinary tides about 10 or 12. There are evident marks of the tides having been higher at ſome diſtant period upon this coaſt than they are at preſent, by at leaſt 20 feet.

Minerals.—When the great military road was making through this pariſh, a great quantity of matter was dug up from a field, and uſed for gravelling the road, which had all the appearance of a vitrified ſubſtance or kind of lava. There are very good quarries of red free ſtone, and ſome muir or whinſtone, which are uſed both for building dykes and houſes. No lime-ſtone or coal has as yet been diſcovered in this pariſh; nor has any trial of conſequence been made to diſcover them. The want of coal is truly diſtreſſing to the country in general, both in regard to agriculture and manufactures. As to lime, it can be obtained in the neighbourhood.

Cattle, &c.—A good many black cattle, (about 700 head in all)

all) are reared in the pariſh, principally of the Galloway breed, being reckoned more eaſily fattened than any other. There are about 145 horſes, moſtly of the draught kind. The ſheep do not exceed 160 in number; and little or no pains is taken to improve the breed. There are about 300 ſwine, fatted annually. They are moſtly ſalted, made into hams, and ſent into England. There are, one year with another, about 960 acres in tillage; of which, about 200 are ſown with barley, 600 with oats, 40 with peaſe and beans, 20 with wheat, 20 with rye, 60 with potatoes, 20 with turnip, and a few with lint. The only manure made uſe of, beſides the dung produced by the cattle on the different farms, is lime, there being no marle. Some trials of ſleech from the ſhore, have been made, but it did not ſeem to anſwer. From an acre of barley, there is generally reaped, about 40 Wincheſter buſhels, of oats 36, of wheat 30, of beans 20, of peas 15, of potatoes 6 tun. There are about 100 acres ſown with artificial graſſes, chiefly clover and rye graſs. About 790 acres in paſture, and 1000 acres of common, ſome part of which, however, is improved every year; ſo that, ſoon, there will be no waſte land in the pariſh, excepting about 100 acres of moſs, which muſt be reſerved for fuel. The expence of peat, including caſting, carrying out, winning and leading them home, may be about 9d. per cart-load. Such of the inhabitants as are in better circumſtances, uſually purchaſe, every ſeaſon, ſome coals from Cumberland; for which, they pay at the rate of 1s. 6d. per ſingle cart load, beſides a journey, going and coming of 36 miles, in addition to the great inconvenience, and riſk of croſſing the firth at low water. Some Engliſh coal is brought by water, which, with the duty, coſts about 9s. per ton. while, in Cumberland, at the diſtance only of two miles, they have the ſame coal, for about 3s. per ton. It has been long and earneſtly wiſhed, that this heavy and fatal ob-

ſtacle to the improvement of this, and of the neighbouring diſtricts, could be removed.

Labouring Poor.—The expences of a common labourer, with a wife and four children, may be nearly as follow.

Houſe-rent, with a ſmall garden or kail-yard	L. 1	0	0
Peats or fuel - - - -	0	6	0
A working jacket and breeches, about -	0	5	0
Two ſhirts, 6s. a pair of clogs, 3s. 2 pair of ſtockings, 2s - - - -	0	11	0
A hat, 1s. a handkerchief, 1s. 6d. -	0	2	6
A petticoat, bedgown, ſhift, and caps for the wife	0	9	0
A pair of ſtockings, 1s. clogs, 2s. 6d. apron, 1s. 6d. napkin, 1s. 6d. for ditto. - -	0	6	6
A ſhirt 2s. clogs, 2s. ſtockings, 1s. for each of the four children - - - -	1	0	0
Other clothes for the children, about 4s. each	0	16	0
School wages, &c. for the four children -	0	10	0
Two ſtone of oat meal, per week, at 20d. per ſtone - - - -	8	13	4
Milk, 9d. per week, butter, 3d. per ditto. -	2	12	0
Salt, candle, thread, ſoap, ſugar, and tea -	0	13	0
The tear and wear of the man and wife's ſunday cloths - - - -	0	10	0
Total outlays	L. 17	14	4

At the rate of 6s. per. week, for 48 weeks, in the year, the man may earn about L. 14: 8: the expence of maintaining the family, will therefore exceed the man's annual earnings, about L. 3: 6: 4 *per annum*; but the deficiency is generally made

up

up by the wife's induſtry, by her working in hay-time and harveſt, when ſhe can earn about L. 1: 10s. and by her ſpinning through winter and ſpring, when ſhe may gain from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week, beſides taking care of her family. The labourers uſually get ſome potatoes ſet by the farmers who employ them, with any manure they can gather, which is a great help to their family, particularly in the article of oat meal. With that ſaving they are enabled to buy better clothes, and a little butcher meat for the winter. Indeed, ſuch as are induſtrious, ſober, and economical, live pretty comfortably, and are in general wonderfully well contented with their ſituation.

Climate, Character of the People, &c.—Though the ſoil is rather damp in winter, and the air moiſt and chilly, yet this diſtrict is rather healthful than otherwiſe. There are ſeveral inſtances of longevity. Some perſons above 80 years of age, now living, are able to go about their ordinary occupations, and even, ſome about 90 and above it. There is one man 93, and a very reſpectable old woman, 96, who is ſtill remarkably chearful and amazingly recollected. Another old woman died about a month ago, that was 93 or 94. ——On ſeveral monuments in our church-yard, there are inſcriptions, aſſerting the deceaſed to have been upwards of 100 years of age, one or two in particular, ſaid to have been 104, if not more.——The inhabitants are in general above the middle ſize, of clear complexion, agile, and active, and not deficient in mental qualifications: Several of them are above 6 feet high, ſome about 6 feet, 3 inches. They are inclined to be induſtrious; but have no manufactory of any conſequence to employ them. It is thought by ſome, that the fiſhing hurts their induſtry, both in the manufacturing and farming lines. The people are not very fond of a ſea-faring life, though ſome individuals occaſionally go

to

to ſea. Such young men as enter into the army, ſeem to give the preference to the artillery.

Village, &c.—Dornock is the only place that can be called a village. It is pleaſantly ſituated upon a gentle eminence about a mile from the ſea, and has a very commanding view of the Solway firth, &c. It conſiſts of about 25 or 26 dwelling houſes, ſcattered along the ſide of the military road, which runs through it. But the manſe, and two other dwelling-houſes, inhabited by the proprietors, are the only ones two ſtory high, or covered with ſlate. The reſt are all mud houſes and covered with thatch.

Mud-houſes.—The farm-houſes in general, and all the cottages are built of mud or clay; yet theſe houſes, when plaiſtered and properly finiſhed within (as many of them are) are exceeding warm and comfortable. The manner of erecting them is ſingular. In the firſt place, they dig out the foundation of the houſe, and lay a row or two of ſtones, then they procure, from a pit contiguous, as much clay or brick-earth as is ſufficient to form the walls: and having provided a quantity of ſtraw, or other litter to mix with the clay, upon a day appointed, the whole neighbourhood, male and female, to the number of 20 or 30, aſſemble, each with a dung-fork, a ſpade, or ſome ſuch inſtrument. Some fall to the working the clay or mud, by mixing it with ſtraw; others carry the materials; and 4 or 6 of the moſt experienced hands, build and take care of the walls. In this manner, the walls of the houſe are finiſhed in a few hours; after which, they retire to a good dinner and plenty of drink which is provided for them, where they have muſic and a dance, with which, and other marks of feſtivity, they conclude the evening. This is called *a daubing*; and in this manner they make a frolic

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of what would otherwiſe be a very dirty and diſagreeable job.

Rent, &c.—The pariſh is moſtly let in ſmall farms, from L. 3 : 12 s. up to L. 120. *per. annum*, but the greater part of them are under L. 30. The beſt arable and meadow grounds, let for about 20s. or a guinea per acre, that of an inferior quality, at an average, about 1s. The valued rent of the whole pariſh, is only 2620 merks Scots. The land rent paid by the tenants, is about L. 1480 ſterling; the fiſhing rents about L. 220.; and houſe-rents, may be from L. 60. to L. 70 a year: total, about L. 1760. None of the greater proprietors, who are 6 in number, reſide in the pariſh. There are 6 feuers who have ſmall portions of land of their own, who live in the village of Dornock. It is certainly unlucky for this diſtrict, as well as for many others in Scotland, that the property of the ſoil has fallen into the hands of great proprietors, who draw their rents annually away, and ſpend them either in London or in foreign parts. Whereas ſmaller proprietors, living and reſiding on the ſpot, would lay out their rents at home, and uniting their ſtock and influence with men of activity in buſineſs, in promoting manufactories, commerce, and improvements of every kind, would ſoon prove of eſſential ſervice both to the diſtrict itſelf, and to the kingdom in general.

Roads.—The great road from Carliſle to Portpatrick, runs through the middle of the pariſh. It was made at the expence of government, but is kept in repair by money collected at a toll-bar, lately erected upon it for that purpoſe. Some of the croſs-roads in this pariſh were formerly made, and upheld by the ſtatute labour; but, in conſequence of an act of parliament obtained for that purpoſe, the ſtatute labour is now commuted, and paid in money at the diſpoſal of the commiſſioners

of

of ſupply for the county. Little or none of the money that has been collected for that purpoſe, has, however, been laid out in this pariſh for theſe five years paſt.

Antiquities.—From the ſituation of the pariſh, it is natural to ſuppoſe, that it has frequently been the ſcene of action in the conteſts between the two nations. But the particulars of theſe predatory incurſions, are now in a great meaſure loſt. One tradition, however, ſtill remains, of a battle, ſaid to have been fought upon a muir in the neighbourhood, between a party of the Engliſh, commanded by Sir Marmaduke Langdale and Lord Croſby, and a body of Scots, commanded by Sir William Brown of Coalſton; in which the Engliſh were defeated, and both their commanders ſlain. They are buried in Dornock church-yard. The ſtones that are placed over them, are about ſix feet and a half long, two feet broad below, and raiſed in the middle like a coffin, but ſomewhat higher; and upon the ſides of theſe tombs are cut hieroglyphics, like broad leaves of plants, and other antique figures, quite unintelligible. They ſeem to be of conſiderable antiquity, but have neither letter nor date. A ſpring-well on the muir where the battle was fought, ſtill bears the name of the ſword-well, probably from ſome of theſe weapons being found there after the battle.

There is the remains of a druidical temple, ſtill to be ſeen near Woodhead, though ſome of the ſtones, of late, have been carried away.—And there is alſo an entrenchment, near Dornock wood, where about an acre of ground has been ſurrounded with a foſſee, of conſiderable depth, called the ſtank; but for what purpoſe it has been made, is not certainly known. The foſſee is now drained and moſtly filled up.——There is alſo at Stableton (now belonging to the Marquis of Annandale) a ſtrong ſquare tower, built of hewn ſtone, vaulted below,

three ſtories high, with battlements on the top; ſaid to have been built by a gentlemen of the name of Edward Irvine, evidently for a place of ſafety againſt the depredations of the Engliſh borderers.——The ſtone in which a wooden croſs formerly ſtood, alſo, ſtill remains: It was called St. Marjory's croſs, to whom, tradition ſays, the church itſelf was dedicated. ——The names of places ſeem moſtly derived from the Anglo-Saxon, or old Engliſh, as Butterdale, Todholes, &c. and ſome may be derived from the Erſe, as Robgill, Gillfoot &c. ——The language ſpoken here is the Engliſh, or lowland Scots; but from the intercourſe with Cumberland, a little of that dialect, is naturally imbibed.

Population.—The population of this pariſh is rather on the decline, owing, perhaps, to the increaſing manufactures in our neighbourhood, particularly Carliſle and Annan, which has induced ſome of the people, to go and ſettle there; and partly to the accumulation of many poſſeſſions into one; ſeveral inſtances of which have lately happened. Some young people alſo go into England, as ſervants, for higher wages, and ſome as itinerant merchants or pedlars. By the examination roll taken about ſix or ſeven years ago, this pariſh contained 780 inhabitants; and about eight or ten years before that, nearly the ſame number; but by the roll taken in March, 1790, there were only 738 then living, ſo that the decreaſe amounts to 42. The number, however, in 1755, acording to Dr Webſter, was only 716.

Preſent inhabitants according to their ages.

Under 10 years of age - - -	145
From 10 to 20 - - -	143
Carried over	288

Brought over	288
From 20 to 30	118
30 to 40	86
40 to 50	67
50 to 60	62
60 to 70	53
70 to 80	46
80 to 90	16
Above 90	2
Total	738

Of whom there are married	190
Unmarried, though marriageable	178
Widowers	19
Widows	24
Male-ſervants	30
Female-ſervants	28
Day-labourers	46
Seceders (of the Burgher perſuaſion)	30

Of tradeſmen, there are 5 joiners, 4 blackſmiths, 10 weavers, 5 taylors, 5 apprentices, 1 ſhopkeeper, 1 miller, 1 tide-waiter, 4 public houſe-keepers, 8 fiſhermen, who do little elſe, and about 20 others who fiſh occaſionally.

The average of baptiſms for the laſt 5 years is 15, of marriages 4, of burials 8; but ſince the late taxes laid on theſe articles (which are heavily complained of) they have not been regularly entered in our pariſh records.

Patron, Church, &c.—The Duke of Queenſberry is patron. The value of the living, including the glebe, is about

L. 90 ſterling. The manſe was rebuilt in 1778. The church is ſmall and inconvenient.

There is a ſchool-houſe, and a very good ſchoolmaſter. His ſalary is only 100 merks Scots, paid by the heritors; which, with the ſchool-wages, may amount to L. 18 or L. 20 a year: a poor pittance to live on, for any man of education and parts, which even a country ſchool-maſter ought to be. The number of ſcholars, ſummer and winter, may, on an average, be from 50 or 60. They are taught reading Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, geometry, accounts, and a few even Latin.

The number of poor at preſent upon the liſt, are 18. There are no funds for their maintenance, but the ſunday collections, which, will ſcarcely amount to 3s. a week, together with the ſmall ſum of 10s. yearly, left them by an heritor.

Agriculture, &c.—There are 60 ploughs in the pariſh, 66 carts, and 48 wheel-cars, or tumbrils. The ploughs are all of the Engliſh make, with the curved mouldboard, and drawn by two horſes without any driver.

The pariſh is partly incloſed with hedges and ditches, and partly with earth and ſtone dikes. The farmers, in general, are very ſenſible of the benefit of incloſures, but are not always inclined to take proper care of their hedges after they are planted. More proviſions are raiſed in the diſtrict than is equal to its conſumption. The annual exports may be nearly as follow.

3500 Wincheſter buſhels of barley, at 3s per buſhel - - -	L. 521	0	0
1000 do. of oats, at 2s. 4d. - -	133	0	0
100 do. peaſe, 4s. - -	20	0	0
Carried over	674	0	0

Brought over	L. 674	0	0
100 do. beans, 5s - - -	25	0	0
60 do. rye, 4s. 6d. - - -	13	0	0
180 head of young cattle, L. 2 : 10s each -	450	0	0
20 cows, L. 6. per head - -	120	0	0
Cheese made after the Cheshire manner, and of very good quality - - -	200	0	0
Butter (about) 100 firkins, L. 2 : 8s. per firkin	140	0	0
300 swine fatted, at L. 3. per head -	900	0	0
Fish, rather uncertain, but may be rated (*communibus annis*) at - - -	400	0	0
Total	2922	0	0

When from this sum, the land and fishing rents are deducted, together with the expence of servants wages, and of day-labourers, there will only remain a surplus of about L. 648. for enabling the farmers to purchase iron and other implements of husbandry, necessaries for their houses, cloths for themselves and their families, additions to their stock, &c.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The advantages of this parish are, its situation on the Solway firth, and its ready access to the English and other markets by water carriage. The military road between Carlisle and Portpatrick also, runs through it, and the mails pass and repass every day; so that the communication by land to any part of the three kingdoms is easy and expeditious.

On the opposite scale, the following circumstances may be placed, to wit, the moistness of the climate; the violent gusts of wind from the west and south west, even in the summer season, by which the crops, particularly those of the tender kind,

are

are greatly injured; the great ſcarcity of timber; the want of water-falls to drive machinery; and, above all, the fatal duty upon coals; to which, may be added, the want of perſons of capital and ſpirit to provide employment for the poor, who ſuffer much from neglect, no proviſion being made for their ſupport, while the rents they raiſe are ſpent by their landlords in diſtant parts of the kingdom.

Character of the People.—The people in this pariſh are naturally ſober, active, and induſtrious. They are greatly more civilized than they were 20 or 30 years ago, particularly ſince all intercourſe of a contraband nature with the Iſle of Man has been broken off. They are in general, contented with their ſituation, though deſirous of improving it; and ſo ſtrict in their conduct and behaviour, that, not only during the incumbency of the preſent miniſter, but from time immemorial, not one individual among them has been convicted of a capital crime.

NUMBER III.

PARISH OF KIRKMAHOE.

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. MR. LAWSON.

Name, Situation, &c.

THIS parish is situated in the shire, presbytery, and synod of Dumfries. Any origin that can be assigned for the name is merely conjectural *. Its form is not easily described, its length and breadth being so various. It is surrounded by the parishes of Closeburn, Kirkmichael, Tinwald, Dumfries, Holywood, and Dunscore.——The northern and eastern parts are hilly, but there are no mountains of any note. Where this parish joins Tinwald, there are many little rising grounds interspersed with morassy grounds at the bottom, which, when out of tillage, are soon covered with furze and broom; but, when plowed (as they are of a light kindly soil) they produce pretty good crops of oats. Some of them were never plowed till within these few years past. The more hilly parts of the parish produce heath and coarse grass, fit only for sheep. There are two considerable sheep farms in these hills, one of which

* It is supposed from some saint called *Mahoe*, or some such name, to whom the church was dedicated.

which maintains about ſixty, and the other from twenty to thirty ſcore. The wool is ſaid to be uncommonly good, and uſually ſells at the beſt price of any in the neighbourhood.——The other high grounds, alſo, feed a conſiderable number of ſheep; but being in many hands, the number cannot be ſo well aſcertained. They probably, however, amount to, at leaſt, twenty ſcore more.

Progreſs of Improvement.—When the preſent incumbent was ordained, An. 1750, improvements were not commenced. There was not a cart in the pariſh but two; and theſe were merely for the purpoſe of ſupplying the families to whom they belonged, with water for domeſtic uſes. About that time the eſtate of Carnſalloch was purchaſed by the late Mr Johnſton. He was the firſt, in this part of the country, who made any conſiderable exertion in draining, incloſing, and planting; which ſoon altered the aſpect, and increaſed the value of his eſtate. By his means, in a great meaſure, the uſe of carts was introduced; the number of which, increaſed ſo rapidly, that, in a ſhort time, even the pooreſt tenants were provided with one, and many with two or more.——The neighbouring gentlemen ſoon followed Mr Johnſton's example. Great improvements were made both in the low lands, and on the riſing grounds; and thus the pariſh, inſtead of being almoſt in a ſtate of nature, or, at leaſt, comparatively unproductive, became remarkable for its cultivation. Planting alſo, became an object of attention, and there are ſeveral hundred acres covered with different ſorts of trees, which greatly adds to the beauty of the country.

Huſbandry.—Some years ago, it was a rare thing to ſee fewer than four horſes in a plough. Three in a yoke, was a matter of wonder. But, for a great while paſt, two horſes, generally

generally speaking, do the same work with equal facility. This, however, is greatly owing to the breed being improved.

Dalswinton.—The estate of Dalswinton is by far the largest in the parish. It was there where the Cumings in former times had one of their chief seats. It was a large Gothic building, reared on one of the highest eminences in the neighbourhood. In 1750, and for some time after, large portions of the old walls were standing; and, from these ruins it appeared to have been a large fabric, and of considerable strength. These stones were afterwards used for building a mansion-house and offices, immediately below the eminence. The mount where the castle stood, and the grounds adjacent were planted with fir and other trees to a considerable extent. A large orchard also was made, which, for many years, yielded a rent of 50 guineas *per annum*. Within these few years this estate was purchased by Patrick Miller, Esq. who has already with taste and much judgement, and with wonderful rapidity, improved great part of the estate, and has made Dalswinton one of the finest seats in the south of Scotland. He is in a likely way of preventing the river Nith from making such depredations upon the rich holm lands, as it had formerly done; and is effecting many other alterations and improvements of equal importance. He has now built, on the mount where the old castle stood (and as near to the old foundation as was consistent with the safety of the building) one of the best and most commodious dwelling houses, for its dimensions, of any in this part of the kingdom. From its top, there is one of the most extensive and pleasing prospects any where to be met with.

Population.—The inhabitants of the parish amount to about 1200. In 1755, according to Dr Webster, the number was 1098.

1698. Baptiſms for ſome years paſt, have been upwards of 40. Marriages about ſix, ſeven, or eight, and ſeldom more. Deaths, much in the ſame proportion, as in the neighbouring pariſhes, according to the number of inhabitants. For upwards of 40 years back, there has been no epidemical diſeaſe, but the ſmall-pox; excepting a fever, which, about 30 years ago, raged for ſome time; and got, from the village where it firſt appeared, the name of the Duncow fever. But only a few were cut off by it.

Villages.—Beſides a new and regularly built village on the eſtate of Dalſwinton, for the accommodation of 15 families, and upwards, there are four others; the ſmalleſt of which contains about 100 inhabitants, and the largeſt (Duncow) between 150 and 200.

Roads and Bridges.—There are, perhaps, few public roads kept in better repair, than thoſe in this neighbourhood. By the ſurplus of the pariſh funds, alſo, ſome excellent croſs-roads, little, if at all inferior to the principal ones, have been lately made. Beſides three bridges upon the principal high-road, two of them over pretty rapid rivulets, there are four others in the pariſh, well executed, and of the greateſt benefit to the inhabitants.

Manſe, Stipend, and Glebe.—The manſe is one of the oldeſt in this part of the country. It was built about 1723, but has had partial repairs at different times ſince. The church, which is an old one, has been for ſome time in a good condition. The ſtipend amounts to L. 83:6:8, communion elements included. But as a part of it is paid in victual, it has produced for ſome years rather more. The glebe is ſmall: what

is properly glebe indeed, not exceeding four acres; but the graſs and arable land united, may be from ſeven to eight acres.

Heritors.—There are four heritors who have conſiderable eſtates in the pariſh. Of the reſt, to the number of fourteen, the greater part of them have only ſmall properties; and are commonly diſtinguiſhed by the name of portioners. They have of late got their lands, which formerly lay in runrigg, divided and ſet apart, which has occaſioned very great improvements.

Rent.—The valuation of the pariſh is 7234$\frac{1}{2}$ merks Scots. The real rent cannot eaſily be aſcertained. It probably amounts to about L. 3000. ſterling. As lands are riſing, and as there is a very great track of fine holm, and other ground of an excellent quality, and ſtill capable of much improvement, it is not eaſy to conjecture to what ſum the rental may ſoon riſe. Some land now lets at from L. 1 : 10s to L. 2 per acre. Every ſort of grain produced in the neighbourhood, alſo potatoes, turnips, &c. are raiſed to very great perfection.

Poor.—The poor, who, for 40 or 50 years back, have been about 20 in number, have always been maintained by the public collections in the church, together with ſome dues on particular occaſions, and the intereſt of ſome mortified money. In this way, by diſtributions four times annually, and ſome ſmall donations occaſionally given amongſt them, there have never been any complaints. Some of the poor, too, are pretty induſtrious, and endeavour, in a great meaſure, to maintain themſelves; by which means, more can be given to others, who are old or infirm, and unable to do any thing.

Schools.

Schools.—There is one legal ſchool and ſchoolmaſter in the pariſh. His ſalary, together with ſome mortified money, amounts to L. 8 : 7 : 8; and by the common ſchool wages for teaching, his income may riſe to more than double that ſum. There are other ſchools in ſome of the villages; one in particular, on the eſtate of Dalſwinton, to the ſupport of which Mr. Miller generouſly contributes. There are few or none in the pariſh, any way advanced in life, who are not capable of reading Engliſh, and in general, who have not learned a little writing and arithmetic.

Ale-houſes.—Within theſe few years the number of ale-houſes has greatly diminiſhed. By the additional taxes upon malt, and the more rigid exactions of exciſe-men, people do not find it worth their while to ſell ale: There were at any rate, but few in the pariſh. Of late, ſelling whiſky and other ſpirits, has chiefly prevailed. This muſt, at times, produce the common effects attending the uſe of ſpirituous liquors. The people, however, are in general ſober and induſtrious.

NUMBER IV.

PARISH OF LOCHRUTTON.

(STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE DUNCAN.

Origin of the Name, Situation, and Extent.

LOCHRUTTON derives its name from a lake or *loch* in the centre of the parish. The meaning of *loch* is well known, and the word *rutton* is supposed to signify, in the Gaelic language, the *straight road*. As the great road to Ireland, through the stewartry and the county of Galloway, passes close by the loch, it seems to have received the name of *Lochrutton*, or the loch upon *the straight road*, from that circumstance. The name was afterwards transferred to the whole district in the neighbourhood. The parish is situated in the county or stewartry of Kirkcudbright, and is one of the ten parishes belonging to that stewartry, which is incorporated with the presbytery and synod of Dumfries. It is of an eliptical form and may be computed to be four miles and a half long, from east to west, and three miles broad from north to south. It is bounded by the parishes of Newabbey and Troquire on the south and east, Terregles and Irongray on the north, and Urr and Kirkgunzeon on the west.

Surface,

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—From the town of Dumfries, which is distant about four miles to the eastward, the country rises gradually, more especially throughout the whole extent of this district. In the lower and upper extremities, and towards the south, the country is hilly; but the rest of the parish lies in a valley consisting of arable land, interspersed with knolls, mosses, and meadows. The whole prospect forms a kind of amphitheatre. The soil is various, but, in general, is composed of light shallow loam, either on white granite, or on a gravellish, and in many places a cold, springy bottom: a species of soil, which is neither very barren, nor very fertile. The climate is rather colder in this district, than in some of the neighbouring parishes, being much elevated above the level of the sea, and having in it a large lake. But as refreshing breezes are seldom wanting, even in the hottest weather; and as, at other times, there are frequently sharp and high winds, the air is greatly purified by these means; and, on the whole, it is accounted healthy.

Lake, Island, &c.—The lake or loch, from which the parish derives its name, is a mile in length, and, at an average, about half a mile in breadth. In the middle of it, there is a small island, about half a rood in extent, of a circular form. It seems to have been, at least in part, artificial: Over its whole surface, there is a collection of large stones which have been founded on a frame of oak planks *. There are both pike and perch in the lake; and formerly eels were caught, in great quantities, by means of wicker baskets, and sometimes of a large chest placed in the sluice, at the foot of the lake, with openings

* The sea-gulls frequent this island in summer, and cover it all over with their nests.

penings at the bottom, which let the water pass, but retained the fish. The fishing, however, now turns to very little account. From the lake there issues a small stream, in which trouts are found.

Mineral Spring.—There is a mineral spring in the parish, called Merkland well, of the chalybeate kind: a very effectual remedy in agues, complaints of the stomach, and all nervous disorders; but fatal in consumptions. It is exceedingly light, very diuretic, and an excellent restorer of the appetite. Though the accommodation has been always very indifferent, yet this water was formerly resorted to, during the summer months, by persons of rank and fortune, as well as by numbers of inferior note. Of late years, its reputation, among people of superior station, has rather declined; partly, because there is a whim and fashion with respect to what are called, watering places; and, because, though the accommodation is much improved, this improvement has by no means kept pace with the luxury of the times.

Minerals.—Lime-stone has been found upon upon the estates of Mr Constable of Nithsdale, and Mr Irvine of Gribton. A quantity of the fossil was lately obtained for a trial, but when fire was applied, instead of being reduced to a calx, it cemented. This may discourage farther attempts, especially as it must be difficult or expensive, while the duty on coals continues, to procure, in this part of the country, a sufficient quantity of fuel to carry on the process.

Antiquities.—The vestige of a druidical temple is to be seen upon a hill at the eastern extremity of the parish. This spot goes by the name of the *seven grey stones*; though in fact there are nine stones, surrounding a rising ground, and forming a circle

circle of about 170 feet diameter. This place was excellently ſituated for aſtronomical obſervations, commands a fine opening to the eaſt, and one of the richeſt and moſt extenſive proſpects in this part of the country.——There are veſtiges alſo, of ſeveral of thoſe towers uſed antiently, both as places of reſidence and of defence, in times of hoſtility; ſome of which appear to have been ſurrounded with a foſſee. One tower remains yet entire, and is mentioned in a Scots chronicle, publiſhed in the reign of James VI. by the name of the Caſtle of Hills. The are abefore the entrance is incloſed, and, over the gate, a porter's lodge was erected. When this tower was built is uncertain; but, upon a corner ſtone of the lodge, which ſeems to be of a more modern conſtruction, the year 1598 is inſcribed.

Population.—The population has not materially varied for ſixty years paſt. In 1728, the fartheſt period to which it can now be traced, the number of ſouls were 480. In 1755, according to Dr Webſter, 564.

In 1790, as follows.

Number of ſouls - - - -	528
—— of males - - -	240
—— of females - - -	288
—— of ſouls, under ten years - -	100
Average of births, for ten years - -	12
—— of deaths, do. - - -	9
—— of marriages, do. - - -	4

Proportion of annual births to the whole population, taking the number at 495, being the average for ten years paſt - - - - 1 to 41

Proportion

Proportion of marriages - -	1 to 123
——— of deaths - - -	1 to 55

It must be observed, that an exact register of births, marriages, and deaths, has not been kept; though, it is believed, the above statement is very near the truth.

In 1790—Number of farmers - - -	50
——— of their families - -	302
——— of weavers, taylors, masons, &c.	22
——— of labouring servants -	50
——— of students, attending the university	1
——— of cottagers, and their children, the children of weavers, &c.	103
	528

There are 15 Cameronians, 24 Antiburgher seceders, and 3 Roman catholics.

Number of inhabited houses, or more properly speaking, of separate families - - - -	123
Persons, at an average, to each house - -	4¼
Number of black cattle - - -	1040
——— of sheep - - -	300
——— of horses - - - -	125
——— of ploughs on the model of the Scots and English conjoined - -	46
——— of carts - - -	77

Number of Acres.—The hilly part of the parish was originally covered with heath, but as the greatest part of it is now under

der tillage, the heath has, in a great measure, disappeared.—There is no map of this district; but, on examining the general appearance of the country, it is supposed there may be,

Of acres lying waste and uncultivated, most of which are capable of cultivation - - - - -	500
Of acres in woods and marshes - -	350
—— in mosses - - -	350
—— in the lake and rivulets - -	250
—— in arable and meadow land - -	5550
Total number of acres corresponding to the extent of the parish, $4\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ miles	7000

Productions, crops, &c.—The parish not only supplies itself with provisions, but, there is exported to England, or disposed of elsewhere, a number of young cattle, and a considerable quantity of barley. Upon these articles, the farmers principally depend for the payment of their rents. A great proportion of oats, too, when made into meal, is sold in Dumfries market, and bought up to supply the miners at Leadhills and Wanlockhead, or transported to the west country.——Oat-seed, if the season answers, is begun to be sown on the second or third week of March, barley towards the end of April, and turnip towards the middle of June. Wheat has been tried, but not with much success. Early sowing, is looked upon as of considerable advantage; the harvest being in general late, and indeed often later by three weeks, than many places in the neighbourhood.

Shell Marle.—Within these fifty years, shell marle has been discovered; and has operated as a very considerable source of improvement. Before that fortunate discovery, the species of

oats, commonly cultivated, was of the grey kind; but, in a few years after, it entirely diſappeared, and gave place to the white oats. The marle is far from being yet exhauſted, and where it begins to fail, lime is ſubſtituted in its place. Indeed, marle was obſerved to produce ſuch wonderful effects, that thoſe farmers, who had not acceſs to it, were ſoon induced to have recourſe to lime, imported from England, and to carry it even ten or twelve miles by land carriage. It has been obſerved, that, whenever the land has been once enriched with lime or marle, and afterwards laid down into paſture, that the ground, early in the ſpring, is covered with daiſies, which are ſucceeded, in the beginning of ſummer, with a plentiful crop of white clover.

Fuel.—The fuel commonly made uſe of is peat. There are ſeveral moſſes, from which, the farmers are allowed the privilege of taking what they require. Some of theſe contain marle, under 3 or 4 feet of moſs. There is one large moſs, which not only furniſhes fuel to the families reſiding upon the eſtates of the gentleman, whoſe property it is, but to others in the pariſh and neighbourhood. Some is ſold at the rate of 2s. each cart-load; but this by way of favour or connivance.

Heritors and Rent.—The heritors, or owners of land in the pariſh, are ſeven in number. One of them, proprietor only of a ſmall eſtate, reſides in it.

The land rent of the pariſh, twenty years ago, was L. 900. it is now, L. 1540. To give an idea of the riſe of rents, it is ſaid, that three farms, which together yield, at preſent, L. 100 *per annum*, were poſſeſſed, towards the end of laſt century, upon condition of paying the public burdens upon the eſtate

of

of Nithſdale, in the pariſh, which could not, at that time, exceed L. 12. ſterling.——The beſt arable land, may be valued at 15s per acre, the inferior at 6s or 7s. But, as there is ſcarce a farm, that has not a great proportion of barren land, this can give no idea of the rent per acre. Some farms are rented from L. 60. to L. 100. others as low as from L. 10. to L. 20. but the general run is about L. 40. The farms are divided from one another, by march dykes, but few of them ſo ſubdivided as to encourage a proper plan of improvement.

Church, Patron, Poor, &c.—The church was built in the times of Popery; it was laſt repaired in 1786. The manſe was built in 1730; and repaired in 1777. The value of the living, including the glebe, is eſtimated at L. 90.——The patron is the Duke of Queenſberry.——The annual amount of the funds for the relief of the poor, is *per annum*, about L. 20, out of which, eight perſons receive a quarterly allowance. Others receive alms occaſionally. None of the poor beg from door to door; but ſcarcely a day paſſes, that the pariſh is not viſited with vagrant poor, from neighbouring pariſhes, or from Ireland.——In 1782 and 1783, when there was a general ſcarcity over the country, the crops in this diſtrict were, at leaſt, as good as uſual; and though the harveſt was late, the crops were got ſafely in. The farmers were ſo grateful for the plenty they enjoyed, and were ſo ſenſible of the hardſhips a number of families might ſuffer from the high price of proviſions, that they ſtored up a conſiderable quantity of oat-meal, to be ſold to ſuch of their neighbours as ſtood in need of a ſupply, at 1s. 8d. per ſtone, though at that time the market price was 2s. 4d.

Roads.—The great military road to Portpatrick, runs through the whole length of this parish.

Cross-roads are also making, by the statute labour now commuted, though they have not in general been brought into proper order.

Advantages and Disadvantages.—The rich beds of marle, dispersed over this district, are the most material advantages it enjoys over some other places in the neighbourhood; but this is counterbalanced by many disadvantages, in particular, the extraordinary expence of cultivation; the fields being stony, interspersed with knolls, and most of them lying on an ascent. The climate, and comparative poverty of the soil, also retard the progress of vegetation; so that grass and hay are by no means luxuriant, and the crops of oats, barley, &c. are of an inferior quality; and, in an unfavourable season, when the harvest is late, exposed to wind, rain, and frost.

Means of farther Improvements.—The inhabitants may be said to enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society: there are means, however, by which their condition might be improved. The coldness of the climate, and the lateness of the harvest, have been mentioned as peculiarly disadvantageous. These disadvantages might, in a great measure, be remedied, by planting, draining, and raising stone and thorn hedges. Were the proprietors to turn their attention to these objects, and to pursue them with spirit and perseverance, the climate itself would be changed, cultivation would rapidly advance; and, whilst they enjoyed the heart felt-satisfaction of augmenting the happiness of their fellow creatures, their exertions would be amply rewarded, by an increase in the value of their estates.

ſtates. If ſuch a plan were adopted, one may venture to affirm, that, this part of the country, which, at preſent, has a bare and bleak appearance, would become, in the courſe of fifteen or twenty years, diſtinguiſhed for warmth, ſhelter, and fertility.

NUMBER

NUMBER V.

PARISH OF KIRKCOLM.

(COUNTY OF WIGTON.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES M'CULLOCH.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THE name of this parish is derived from St. Columbus, to whom the church was dedicated.——It is situated in the county of Wigton, the presbytery of Stranraer, and synod of Galloway. It is a little peninsula of itself, detached from every other parish, except Leswalt, which forms its boundary to the south. On all other sides, it is surrounded by the sea. It is, on an average, about four miles in breadth, and it extends in length, along the west shore of Lochryan, from five to six miles. On this coast, partly formed by the shores of Kirkcolm, is a beautiful bason, called the Wig, large enough to afford a safe retreat for a great number of small craft in bad weather; and in other parts of the bay of Lochryan, there is a sufficient depth of water for ships of any burden, and either good anchoring grounds, or a soft beach, as may be most convenient: And, as there are no shoals or sunken rocks near the mouth, to obstruct the entrance, it is questionable, whether a more convenient harbour is to be found between the two head-lands or Mulls of Kintyre and Galloway.

——Beyond

——Beyond a ſmall point of land, called the Star, there is a fine bank of moſt excellent oyſters, ſmall indeed, but highly flavoured, and of a moſt delicious taſte. It is believed, that if perſons, ſkilled in managing dredge-nets, were to ply in deep water, oyſters would be got in greater numbers, and of a larger ſize, than by the preſent mode of taking them off the beach, with the hand, when the tide is out; and, inſtead of being ſtinted to a day or two about the new or the full moon, they might dredge for them at all times with ſucceſs.——— In regard to freſh waters, in ſo narrow a peninſula, any large ſtream cannot be expected; and accordingly there is but one ſmall rivulet, which very ſcantily ſupplies water ſufficient to ſerve a corn miln, the only one in the pariſh.

Surface, Crops, &c.—The ſurface of the pariſh is rather plain and level, than hilly, and the riſing grounds have ſo eaſy and gentle an aſcent, that they may be, and actually are, cultivated with the plow even to the very ſummit. The ſoil is various. Round the ſhore it is thin, ſandy, or gravelliſh; in the more inland parts, it is in ſome places a rich loam, in others a deep clay; and in others, a mixture all theſe ſoils.

The crops principally raiſed are oats and barley, or bear, with rye graſs and clover. They have not yet engaged in the culture of field turnips or cabbages. Small quantities of grey peaſe, and ſmaller quantities of horſe beans are ſown by ſome for their own private uſe, but none for ſale; and much the ſame may be ſaid in regard to wheat. The ſpirit of improving land began ſome years ago; but it was confined to a few individuals, proprietors of the land they cultivated. The common tenants thought ſuch operations were too expenſive for them to embark in; but now that ſpirit has diffuſed itſelf greatly, and, indeed, almoſt univerſally, among farmers of all deſcriptions.

Manures,

Manures, &c.—The manure chiefly made use of is lime; great quantities of which are imported from Whitehaven, in the north of England, and still greater from Loch-Larne, in the north of Ireland. Considerable quantities of shells, which are found not far from the surface, in several places of the parish, are also used. Another manure, much run upon at present, is a soft sea sand, either taken from within the flood-mark, or dug in lands that have been formerly covered by the sea. This last manure is not thought to be so strong in quality as the former, but by spreading it a little thicker, it is found to answer equally well; and is in great request, as it costs nothing, but the labour of bringing and laying it on. It has not yet been ascertained how long the virtue and efficacy of this manure will continue; but several have found the good effects of it for four, five, six, and seven years; and when the source whence it is taken is considered, we may venture to pronounce it an inexhaustible fund of wealth to the district.

The quantity of grain produced by means of these manures, is very considerable, and increasing every year. About twenty years ago, it was thought a very extraordinary crop, if about 200 bolls of bear and oats, after reserving what was sufficient for the maintenance of the inhabitants, could be exported. But within these ten or twelve years past, the export has risen from 200, to 400, to 600, to 800, to 1000, and in 1790, to 1200 Galloway bolls, each boll, containing twelve bushels, Winchester measure. Nay, it is believed, by the most judicious and intelligent farmers, that the quantity exported will go on increasing for many years to come. The grain is carried to Ayr, Greenock, Glasgow, and other places on the Clyde. These improvements in husbandry have also mended the breed of cattle, the farmer being enabled by the greater quantity, and the better quality of food to rear them in greater

numbers, to raiſe them to a larger ſize, and to greater perfection.

Population.—The report made to Dr. Webſter, in 1755, of the population of this diſtrict, was 765 ſouls.

The number now is - - -	945
Of theſe there are males - - -	518
Females - - - -	427
Under ten years of both ſexes - - -	298
Births at an average - - - -	26
Burials - - - - -	24
Marriages - - - -	7

Rents, Stipend, Poor, &c.—The rents of the pariſh exceed L. 3000 *per annum*, which is more than double the amount ſeven years ago. There are only five proprietors; of whom the Earl of Galloway, who is alſo patron of the church, and titular of the tiends, is by far the moſt conſiderable. The ſtipend has not been augmented for more than ſixty years; and amounts to four bolls of bear, twelve bolls of meal, Wigton meaſure, L. 53 in money, and a glebe of about nine acres. ——The poor are chiefly ſupported by the collections at the church doors, which produce about L. 10 *per annum*. With this ſmall ſum, and the occaſional charity of the well-diſpoſed part of the inhabitants, the poor, to the number of ſixteen, are not only preſerved from ſtarving, but are, in a great meaſure, prevented from ſtraggling to beg in other pariſhes in the neighbourhood.

Till within theſe three years, there was not the leaſt veſtige of a village in the pariſh; but, ſince that time, about thirty houſes, contiguous to each other, have been built. They are, in general, inhabited by tradeſmen, but ſome of

them by common day-labourers. Unfortunately, however, more than one third of theſe houſes may be called gin, or rather whiſky ſhops, as they all ſell that pernicious liquor. What effects this muſt have upon the morals of the people, not only in the village, but in the neighbourhood, may be eaſily foreſeen.

Air and Climate.—The climate is mild and temperate, and the air ſalubrious. Many of the inhabitants live to a very conſiderable age. The miniſters of Kirkcolm have, in particular, been diſtinguiſhed by longevity. In 1643, Mr James Bell was ſettled miniſter, and held the cure, with ſome interruption when Epiſcopacy was eſtabliſhed in Scotland, until the year 1700. His ſucceſſor, Mr. Marſhall, poſſeſſed the charge until 1705, when the preſent incumbent was admitted; who, in April 1791, was on the verge of eighty.

There are no mineral or medicinal wells in this pariſh; and the holy wells, that, in times of ignorance, were ſuch objects of ſuperſtitious veneration, are now treated with contempt and ridicule.

Antiquities.—This pariſh furniſhes no antiquities, but the ruins of an old building, which has been large and capacious. Tradition has not ſo much as preſerved the name of the founder or its inhabitants. It is only certain, that it has not been habitable for above a century. ——It may be proper to add, that, in digging among the ruins ſome months ago, a ſmall cannon was found, ſeven feet long, and about three inches in the bore. This circumſtance tends to prove, in addition to the thickneſs of the walls, that it was built as a place of ſtrength for the protection of the neighbouring country.

NUMBER

NUMBER VI.

PARISH OF STONYKIRK.

(COUNTY OF WIGTON.)

By the Rev. MR. HENRY BLAIN.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THE pariſh of Stonykirk, more properly Stephenkirk, compoſed of the united pariſhes of Stonykirk, Claſhank, and Toſcarton, in Stranraer preſbytery, lies in the county of Wigton; and is bounded by the bay of Luce on the eaſt, Kirkmaiden pariſh on the ſouth, the Iriſh channel and Portpatrick pariſh on the weſt, and by the pariſhes of Inch and Glenluce on the north. It contains about 17,000 acres; of which, 700, lying along the bay of Luce, are of a ſandy ſoil, hardly capable of improvement. The ſoil of the reſt of the pariſh is, in general, light and dry; and favourable to an early harveſt.

Proprietors and Rent.—In the pariſh there are five heritors; the two moſt conſiderable of whom reſide in it. The valued rent is L. 4924 Scots; the real rent, ſervices, &c. included, is eſtimated at L. 3169: 2: 7 ſterling; but a conſiderable riſe may ſoon be expected.

Manure.—There has been, for ſome years paſt, a vaſt quantity of lime, for manure, imported from Whitehaven; and delivered to the farmers, at 1s. 2d. the Carliſle buſhel, or herring barrel. A ſouth eaſt wind brings plenty of ſea-weed to Balgreggan head, in the bay of Luce, which is conſtantly applied as manure; and is found to yield one luxuriant crop, if put on wet clay land, particularly if the following ſummer is dry and warm. In conſequence of the great alteration made by theſe articles, the value of land has increaſed conſiderably. The tenants find their account in improving, and pay their advanced rents with greater facility than before; ſo that, Galloway, (as theſe improvements are now becoming general) may, with great propriety, be called a corn country.

Produce, Exports, &c.—More grain is exported from Stonykirk, than from any pariſh in the weſt of Galloway. It is computed, that, after ſupplying the inhabitants, the export amounts to 1800 bolls of oats, 900 bolls of bear, and about 100 tons of potatoes, *per annum.* There is more flax raiſed here than in any other pariſh in the neighbourhood. That crop has been particularly attended to ſince the commencement of the late American war. About L. 2000, on an average, is annually received for black cattle. For ſome years paſt, it has been the practice to rear a number of ſwine, which were ſold for ſlaughter; but it is now found to anſwer better to kill them at home, and to ſend the carcaſes to the London market. That article brought about L. 200. in 1790. All the ſheep, reared in the pariſh, are conſumed in it. The mutton of ſuch as feed on the ſea coaſt, is reckoned remarkably high-flavoured.

Prices of Proviſion and Labour.—Beef, mutton, and lamb, ſell at 3d.—and pork at about 2½ the pound;—a gooſe ſells

for 1s 3d.—and a hen for 8d. or 9d. each;—eggs at 2d. the dozen;—rabbits, (of which, there is a good warren on the bay of Luce) 5d. the pair;—butter 8d.—and common cheeſe 3d. the pound of 24 ounces. The average price of well dreſſed oats is rather below L. 1. per boll, of 12 Wincheſter buſhels;—of common bear, about L. 1 : 1;—and of two rowed barley, generally L. 1 : 6, per ditto. A day labourer, if he finds his own victuals, receives 1s. per day;—carpenters and maſons from 1s 6d. to 1s 10d. Were it not for the influx of the Iriſh, the price of the labour would have become inſupportably high.

Services—There are various ſervices performed by the tenants, to the reſident heritors, ſuch as cutting peats, and carrying them to the manor houſe, cutting down corn, and ſometimes ploughing and harrowing. Baillie work, as it is termed, is common over the whole county of Wigton.

Manufactures.—Some years ago, ſalt was manufactured at two places in this pariſh; but the practice is now diſcontinued, probably, becauſe it was found eaſier to ſmuggle that article from Ireland. This buſineſs, however, might be revived with advantage to the public and to the undertakers, particularly if the fiſheries ſhould prove ſucceſsful. There is ſome kelp made here every year, and generally exported to Ireland. The coarſe yarn ſpun by the old women, is uſually brought to the fairs, of which two are held every year, in this pariſh, and there readily bought up to be made into oſnaburghs for the Weſt Indian market. There is in this pariſh a bleachfield, and four mills for dreſſing flax, alſo a very excellent mill for making pot or pearl barley, conſtructed by an ingenious mechanic from Edinburgh, with a view of preparing that article for the Liverpool market.

Fiſheries.

Fisheries.—There is a tolerable good cod fishery in the Irish channel, which is pursued with various success through the whole season; but none is exported. About Lammas, abundance of mackerel are taken in the bay of Luce. The salmon fishery might be carried on with some success, but has been very much neglected.

Roads.—The parish roads, formerly made and repaired, by statute labour, are now kept in order by a conversion of 15s. for every L. 100. Scots, of valued rent, payable by the tenants, *pro rata*; and each householder, not a tenant, pays at the rate 1s. 8d. *per annum.*

Stipend, Schools, &c.—The stipend is L. 640. Scots, including L. 40 for furnishing communion elements, 60 bolls of meal, 32 bolls of bear, Linlithgow measure, with a manse and glebe. The patronage of the church lies in the Crown, and Mr. M'Donald of Garthland, *per vices*, the former for Clashank and Toscarton, and the latter for Stonykirk. There are two schools in the parish, both in wretched order as to houses; and the salary only 100 merks. There may be above 130 scholars at them, for four months in the year, but after the 1st of March, the number dwindles down to 20 or thereabouts. There are, at present, about 15 poor on the funds; the collection for their relief, amounts, at an average, only to 7s 6d. per week.

Population.—The population is as follows.

On the lands of Ardwell.

Individuals - - - -	460
Under 10 years of age - - -	82
From 10 to 20 - - - -	100
—— 20 to 50 - - - -	192

From

From 50 to 70	58
—— 70 to 100	28
Farmers	36
Their families	156
Mechanics	24
Apprentices	8
Houſehold ſervants, male and female	40
Inhabited houſes	104

In the remainder of the pariſh.

Individuals	852
Males	384
Females	468
Under 10 years of age	176
From 10 to 20	175
—— 20 to 50	353
—— 50 to 70	126
—— 70 to 100	22
Additional liſt of different ages and ſexes	53

In the whole pariſh

Individuals	460×852×53=1365
Ploughs	98
Carts	103
Marriages, Births, Deaths — for ſix years from 1785 to 1790, both incluſive	70, 164, 130

The inhabitants, upon the whole, enjoy good health, and live to an advanced age: one man died two years ago 96 years old.

Antiquities.—In the pariſh there are three beautiful earthen mounds,

mounds, formed like a ſugar loaf. The moſt remarkable of them, near Balgreggan-houſe, is 460 feet in circumference, at the baſe, the perpendicular height 60 feet; and there is a curious excavation on the top. It is defended by a large circular foſſee. On the lands of Garthland, is a ſquare tower, 45 feet high, with the date 1274 on the battlements, formerly the reſidence of the Thanes of Galloway. Here are ſome fine trees, aſh, birch, elm. A few of the former meaſure 9½ feet in girth. The bay of Float, in this pariſh, is ſo called, from the circumſtance of ſome veſſels of the Spaniſh Flota being wrecked there; and at Money-Point, near it, many dollars were found. On the lands of Ardwell, are ſome remains of druid temples, and Pictiſh caſtles. There is alſo a chalybeate ſpring; and a cave, near the bay of Float, called the Good Wife's Cave, which has a very remarkable echo. Two gold lacrymatories, weighing 3½ ounces each, were found in 1783, on the eſtate of Garthland.

NUMBER VII.

PARISH OF COLMONELL.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES MOCHRIE.

Origin of the Name.

COLMONELL or Calmonell, is presumed to be of Gaelic derivation, as the names of many places in this parish undoubtedly are *. Some, who pretend to knowledge in that language, alledge the word signifies a turtle dove, or wood pigeon, with which, there is reason to believe, the parish formerly abounded, and still many of these birds harbour in woods on the banks of the river Stinchiar. Or, if conjecture might take place where no certainty can be obtained, the name may be derived from St Coleman, one of the popish saints. There is a parish in the presbytery of Kintyre, of nearly the same name, Kilcolmonell; where, as the Gaelic language is better understood, more certain information, as to the etymology and signification of the name, may perhaps be obtained.

* As Dagarroch, Dalreoch, Bellickmurrie, Knockdolian, &c.

Situation and Extent.—The parish is situated in that district of the county of Ayr called Carrick. At the first settlement of presbyteries in Scotland, it was proposed, according to Calderwood's history, to make it the seat of a presbytery; but this not taking place, it was first placed in the presbytery of Ayr, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr; but was afterwards annexed to the presbytery of Stranraer, and synod of Galloway, united to which it now remains. As Stranraer is very distant, and the presbytery of Ayr, perhaps, at present, too numerous a body, the erection of a new presbytery in Carrick, for the seat of which Girvan or Dailly would be pretty centrical and commodious, has been suggested. It was originally of uncommon large extent; but when the parish of Barr was erected, all the lands of Ardmillan, extending three miles along the shore, and about two miles inland, were disjoined from Colmonell and annexed to Girvan. A very large parish, however, still remains; its greatest length from west to east, being about fourteen computed miles, and its average breadth about six.

Surface, Soil, and Climate.—The surface varies in different parts of the parish. From the sea, towards the inland parts of the country, it is very hilly for about four miles. The rest of the parish, though more elevated above the level of the sea, is flat. The soil is in general thin and light, seldom above the ordinary depth of a plough furrow, mostly upon a tilly bottom, and pretty much encumbered with stones. The flat land, however, upon the sides of the river, is a loamy soil, mixed with sand of a good depth, and particularly well calculated for fruit trees.——There are seven gardens, or orchards in the parish, all of whom produce apples, pears, plumbs, cherries, and the smaller fruits in the greatest perfection.—In regard to climate, there are few places in Ayrshire, or in the south west

of Scotland, where the air is milder or more wholeſome than in the village of Colmonell, and all along the banks of the Stinchiar.———The weary and impatient traveller, chilled and benumbed with the pinching cold he has experienced on the adjacent mountains, feels with peculiar pleaſure, the genial warmth of the valley into which he deſcends.——The inhabitants, in general, are not only long lived, but healthy in their old age. There are a good number upwards of 80, now alive; among whom, there is a woman in the 98 year of her age, who reaped corn laſt harveſt, and a man about 90, who mowed hay.

Rivers.—Stinchiar is the principal river in the pariſh. It has its ſource in the pariſh of Barr, about twelve miles above the village of Colmonell. Its water is moſt clear and tranſparent, ſo that a fiſh lying at ſix or eight feet deep in it, can be diſtinctly ſeen from its banks. It produces ſalmon and trout; but the quantity caught is only ſufficient for the conſumption of the inhabitants. Several ſtreams or rivulets, fall into the Stinchiar, particularly the Aſhill, the Duſk, the Muick, and the Feoch.

Woods.—It is univerſally believed, from traditional authority, that, in former times, there was a continued wood from Knockdolian hill, to the kirk of Barr, an extent of ten miles: and it may be ſtated, as an additional proof in ſupport of that idea, that, in moſſy grounds, large oak trees are often found in that part of the country. There is alſo ſtill a great deal of wood in the neighbourhood. The banks of the Stinchiar are adorned with natural woods, almoſt the whole length of its paſſage thro' the pariſh. There is alſo much wood upon the Muick; and for an extent of three miles at leaſt, upon the Duſk. The timber growing in theſe woods, is oak, aſh, elm, birch; and there are alſo

great quantities of hazle nuts, wild ſtrawberries, and wild apples in them. Theſe trees grow naturally on banks and ſteep grounds, which could be turned to any other purpoſe equally profitable. The price of wood here twenty or thirty years ago, was a mere trifle, as there was then very little conſumption for it in the country, and no good roads to convey it to other places; but now it gives a better price. Good oak and aſh, will fetch from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cubical foot. The home conſumption is greatly increaſed, by the building of better houſes, and by better implements of huſbandry, particularly carts, of which, thirty years ago, there were only two in the pariſh, but now there is ſcarcely a farmer who has not one, two, three, and ſome even more in his poſſeſſion.

Hills.—Carleton hill riſes with a very ſteep aſcent and is ſituated ſo near the ſea, on the bay of that name, that at full tide, there is little more than room for the traveller to paſs, without being in danger from the rocks that threaten to tumble upon him. It riſes 518 yards above the level of the ſea. Knockdaw and Knocknormon are equally high, but being farther removed from the ſhore, and ſtanding near more elevated grounds, they do not ſo much ſtrike the eye of the traveller. But the moſt remarkable is Knockdolian, whoſe height is 650 yards above the level of the ſea; and as it riſes in a conical ſhape, it is both a moſt beautiful object to the traveller by land, and of ſingular ſervice, as a conſpicuous land-mark, to veſſels at ſea, when they enter the Firth of Clyde.

Number of Farms, &c.—The loweſt rent paid for any farm in the pariſh, is L. 7; the higheſt about L. 200.

The number of farms may amount to - - 116
——— of ploughs (chiefly of the light Scottiſh ſort) 106

The

The number of horſes - - -	232
—— of black cattle - - -	2900
—— of ſheep - - -	12,000

The wool is in general coarſe, the carcaſe being principally attended to. Upon an average it takes about 12 fleeces to the ſtone, which ſells at from 10s. to 12s. Little or no attention is given to have ſheep with fine wool, though there are ſome in the diſtrict.

To the north of the Stinchiar, and along the ſhore, there is a great deal of land fit for fattening both ſheep and black cattle, and to that uſe ſeveral farmers appropriate their ground. But the breeding of cattle is a more general object in this part of the country. It is ſuppoſed, that nearly one fifth part of the pariſh is arable land, or capable of being made ſo. Agriculture, however, has been leſs attended to, as within theſe twenty or thirty years, the price of ſheep and black cattle has been more than doubled, whereas the value of corn has continued nearly the ſame. Such encouragement alſo is given to importation of Iriſh grain, as tends greatly to depreſs the huſbandry of this neighbourhood.

Rent.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 5945 Scots; the real about L. 3000 ſterling. Within theſe twenty years paſt, the rent has been doubled, almoſt univerſally, and in ſome inſtances, more than trebled. A farm in the vicinity of the village of Colmonell, paid, twenty years ago, L. 25 ſterling. The poſſeſſor, at the expiry of his leaſe, went out a beggar. It was let on a new leaſe at L. 80 ſterling, and is evidently now a lucrative bargain. It was too large for the former tenant to manage with propriety. His ſucceſſor made ſeveral ſubſetts, but reſerved to himſelf a good portion of the land, with a very ſmall ſhare of the rent. All his ſubtenants have made money

ney upon their reſpective poſſeſſions. This is mentioned to prove the hazard of putting too much improveable land, in the hands of one perſon. The rent per acre varies; but in the near neighbourhood of the village, there are ſome ſingle acres let to tradeſmen, from 20s. to 40s. per acre.

Crops.—Oats, peaſe, bear, or barley, and potatoes, are in general the crops in the pariſh. Of oats there is uſually given from ſeven to eight Wincheſter buſhels per Scots acre of ſeed, and the crop yields, from three to four returns on ordinary land. But when the ground has been reſted for ſome years, and enriched with dung and lime, from ſix to nine returns may be expected. The oats in the fertile parts of the country, will yield from eight to nine ſtone of meal per boll. But the oats, in the upper or muir grounds, which includes by far the greateſt part of the pariſh, is of a much inferior quality. The boll will not yield above ſix ſtone of meal and ſeldom above three ſeeds are reaped. In theſe hilly grounds, little bear is ſown, or peaſe; but ſome rye, which anſwers much better than any other crop. Where the land is in any tolerable good heart, four buſhels of barley is reckoned ſufficient ſeed for an acre. Of common bear a larger allowance is requiſite. The barley will weigh from forty-eight to fifty pound per buſhel. The common bear weighs leſs, by eight, ten, or twelve pounds. The ſeaſon for ſowing corn and peaſe, is any time in the month of April, when the ground is dry, and in proper condition to receive the ſeed: that of bear and barley about Whitſunday. Harveſt uſually commences about the middle of Auguſt; and is generally over by the end of September. In 1782, when much damage was ſuſtained in other places by an early froſt, the crops upon Stinchiar were generally cut down before it appeared.——Great quantities of potatoes are raiſed in the pariſh, and anſwer very well, even in the wildeſt parts, where other

crops

crops do not. They are the chief means of ſubſiſtence to the poorer claſſes of people, for at leaſt three quarters of the year. No one who has land in his poſſeſſion, refuſes a potatoe rigg to a poor perſon; and very often they have both land and dung given them, for nothing.——They have lately got into the method of ſetting potatoes with the plough. The ground is plowed twice or thrice, and perfectly cleaned of weeds: It is then dunged, the dung is plowed in, and the land is harrowed. The plowman than begins at one ſide of the field, and makes a furrow. A number of people follow him dropping in the ſeed, ſo that the row is ſet as ſoon as the furrow is drawn. As he returns with the plough, he covers the potatoes with a light furrow, and follows the ſame plan, till the whole field is gone over. The ſeed potatoes are ſet at ſix or eight inches, and the rows are placed at three feet diſtance from each other. To dung the whole field is judged better for the land, and for the crop that is to follow, than to lay the dung only in the furrow, when the potatoes are ſet. Beſides the work is much more expeditiouſly carried on. The diſtance of the row admits a horſe and plow to lay up the earth to the potatoes, ſo often as may be neceſſary.——A crop of wheat has been tried after the potatoes ſet in this manner, and has turned out very well.

The crops produced in the pariſh, are of late years, more than ſufficient for the maintenance of the inhabitants. The towns of Girvan and Ballantrae, have received the ſurplus. It is only of late years, that the farmers have had any encouragement to raiſe more grain than was neceſſary for the conſumption of the neighbourhood; remote from any good market, and no cart road by which it could be conveyed to a diſtance.

Roads.——While the making and repairing of roads depended only upon the ſtatute-labour, nothing to purpoſe either was, or could be, done in this part of the country. An act

act was therefore applied for, and obtained, to convert the ſtatute-labour into money. The converſion is at the rate of 25 ſhillings ſterling for each L. 100 Scots of valued rent. In the act, the ſeveral roads that were judged moſt neceſſary, were deſcribed: One by the ſhore from Girvan to Ballantrae, and thence to the confines of the county, by Glenap. This one is already formed, and has lately received ſome improvements; but there are ſtill ſome arduous and difficult pulls in it, which are hardly to be avoided.——The other from Girvan, by the village of Colmonell. Upon the credit of the act money was borrowed, and the work was begun. But it was ſoon found, that any ſum which could be raiſed on that fund, would be very inadequate to the purpoſe. Some aſſiſtance having been obtained from Government, the work was gradually carried on through the pariſh of Ballantrae. But a difference of opinion as to the direction of theſe two roads, in the pariſh of Colmonell, having taken place, an engineer was employed to make a particular ſurvey of the whole country, and to draw out the plan of a road, which ſhould be, on the whole, the leaſt expenſive and exceptionable. The plan he formed was univerſally approved of; and will be completed in the courſe of the year 1791.

Improvements.——Whatever progreſs may have been made in other places, yet in the pariſh of Colmonell improvements are ſtill in their infancy.——Till of late, there were very few incloſures indeed; but now the farmers are all ſtriving with one another who ſhall have their grounds firſt incloſed. In ſome inſtances, the proprietor incloſes the ground, and charges the tenant ſix *per cent.* or upwards, of intereſt for the expence he lays out. Sometimes, however, the tenant himſelf is at the expence; the proprietor being obliged to refund him the value of the dykes at the expiration of the leaſe, if he then quits

quits the poſſeſſion of his farm. There are few in the lower part of the pariſh, who have not their arable and meadow land ſeparated by dykes from their paſture; and many have their whole farms incloſed and divided.——The practice of incloſing is gradually extending itſelf over the pariſh; and is judged to be the moſt profitable ſpecies of improvement, that the nature of the country in general will admit of.—— The dykes are commonly built with dry ſtone, and are uſually about five feet high, about two feet wide at the foundation, and ten or twelve inches at the top.——But this practice of incloſing, together with the increaſe of rents, has occaſioned the diſmiſſion of herds and cottagers; and, of conſequence, has materially affected the population of the diſtrict. Many perſons of that deſcription lived in the pariſh; and their ſervices were particularly neceſſary while the ground was open. They had from their maſters a houſe and yard, a ſmall piece of land, graſs for one or more cows, &c. the value of which was accounted trifling, while the rents were low: But when they came to be doubled or trebled, the farmer began to calculate the coſt, and to eſtimate what the graſs of every cow was worth, &c. and thus they were ſpurred on to incloſe their grounds, that they might not have occaſion for ſuch a burden in future. But however profitable this expedient might be to the farmer himſelf, it has evidently proved inimical to the population, and perhaps to the real improvement, of the country. About twenty years ago there was hardly a tenant who had not one or more of theſe cottagers on his farm, whereas now there are very few of them in the whole pariſh.——The cottages were the nurſeries of ſervants; but their inhabitants have now been removed to towns, and having bred up their children to other employments, farm ſervants have become exceedingly ſcarce throughout the whole country.

In the lower parts of the pariſh, the improvement of arable land has of late years been principally carried on by lime, which turns out to exceeding good account. There is great plenty of good limeſtone; but coals lie at the diſtance of fourteen miles.

Antiquities.—There are ſeveral remains of antient buildings in this pariſh. The caſtles of Carleton, Knockdaw, Kirkhill, Craigneil, Pinwhirry, Kildonan, &c. and alſo a number of cairns, or large heaps of ſtones in different places, which are certainly antient enough; but for what purpoſe they were collected, is not certainly known.

Heritors.—There are ſeventeen proprietors of land, only two of whom reſide in the pariſh.

Manufactures.——A tan-work was ſet up about a twelvemonth ago; it is at preſent on a ſmall ſcale, but will probably be enlarged.——An woolen manufacture would be the moſt proper one for this part of the country.——There are in the pariſh 24 weavers, 7 of whom reſide in the village; 13 ſhoemakers, 13 taylors, 7 wrights, 10 maſons, 5 blackſmiths, 5 millers, and 2 clothiers, all employed in working for the neighbourhood. There are alſo 5 corn mills, a barley mill, and a lint mill.

Church, &c.—An inſcription upon a ſtone above the old church door bears date 1591. The church was taken down and built new from the foundation in 1772. It is in good repair; but not being in a centrical ſituation, it has been cuſtomary for the miniſter of Colmonell once a month to perform divine ſervice at a place called Barrhill, five miles diſtant from it. The manſe was built in 1762; and has ſince been repaired. The ſtipend amounts to 99 bolls, 1 firlot of victual,

L. 213:6, Scots, in money, and 30 merks for communion elements. The glebe conſiſts of eight acres paſture and arable, worth 20s the acre. Mr Hamilton of Bargeny is patron.

Population.——The return to Dr. Webſter, about 40 years ago, was 1814 ſouls. There are now only about 1100 in the pariſh; all of whom are of the eſtabliſhed church, excepting 56 Seceders of the Antiburgher denomination, and 6 Cameronians.——No authentic account can be given of births, deaths, and marriages, as no full record of them has been kept here, ſince Government impoſed a duty upon them, which few of the pariſhioners chuſe to pay; and the pariſh clerk is forbid to record any for whom the duty is not paid.—The population has been gradually decreaſing for theſe 30 years paſt; partly owing to the union of farms; but principally, to the diſmiſſion of cottagers. There is now often but one family, where formerly there were three or four.——In the village there are 34 dwelling houſes, all thatched, except the manſe; 4 ſhopkeepers, who ſupply the neighbourhood with grocery, hardware, &c. 2 inns, with very indifferent accommodation for ſo frequented a road, as this is likely to become; and 4 public houſes, for the lower ranks of people; particularly during the four great fairs, which are held here the firſt Monday of every quarter, at which a good deal of common country buſineſs is tranſacted.

School.—There is an eſtabliſhed ſchoolmaſter at the church, with a ſchool-houſe, ſufficiently large, and a dwelling houſe for the maſter: but the extent of the pariſh renders it impoſſible for him to be uſeful to a fourth part of the inhabitants. It is very uſual, therefore, for three or four farmers in the country to join in hiring a private teacher, to inſtruct their

children. The ſchool-maſter's ſalary is 2 merks from each L.100 Scots of valuation. There is alſo a ſmall farm, which was mortified to the heritors and kirk-ſeſſion, for the benefit of the ſchool, the yearly rent of which is L. 16 ſterling; one half whereof goes to the ſchoolmaſter, and the other half to poor boys in the pariſh, of a particular deſcription.

Seceders.—Their meeting-houſe for public worſhip is within a quarter of a mile of the village. Their congregation, though collected from the pariſhes of Ballantrae, Girvan, Barr and Colmonell, is after all but ſmall. They have never been able to make any great acceſſion to their intereſt in Carrick, owing very much to the prudence and moderation, with which the ſettlement of miniſters, on the eſtabliſhment, in this part of the country, has been conducted; an example which ought to be imitated, by all who wiſh well to ſociety, and to the intereſts of religion.

Poor.—There are few common beggars, or perſons totally deſtitute, belonging to the pariſh, but a conſiderable number of people who require occaſional ſupplies. The number upon the liſt at preſent is 24. The only fund for their relief ariſes from the collections made at the church doors, and the intereſt of a ſmall ſum ſaved in a courſe of ſome years. The money annually diſtributed, on an average of three years, ending 1790, was L. 20: 14 ſterling.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The inhabitants, in general, are ſober and induſtrious. They pay a proper regard to their religious duties, and, in particular, are attentive to the dictates of juſtice, humanity, and charity to their brethren. A number of them, though they have received but a very common and

and ordinary education, yet poſſeſs a degree of judgement and knowledge, both in ſpiritual and temporal matters, exceeded by few. They enjoy life very happily, and are ſeemingly pleaſed with their ſituation. Till of late years, their dwelling houſes were very uncomfortable; but now they are making great improvements in them, particularly when they receive any aſſiſtance from their landlords to excite, or to enable them. One great bar to improvement is the ſhortneſs of leaſes. They are ſeldom given for more than nineteen years; and, in many caſes, (where the lands are ſtrictly entailed) cannot be granted for a greater length of time. This affords but little ſcope, and leſs encouragement, to extenſive or expenſive exertions.

Another diſadvantage is, the want of more croſs roads for the purpoſe of carrying manure, &c. particularly one up the river Duſk, to join the ſhire of Ayr to that of Wigton, and the ſtewartry of Kirkcudbright *.

The laſt great bar to improvement is, the cuſtom univerſally prevailing through the country, of landlords binding their

* In the planning, and the laying out of the public roads, very great improvements have taken place, in this neighbourhood.—— The road from Girvan, down the north ſide of the water of Stinchiar, by the village of Colmonell, and thence by the ſouthſide of Knockdolian hill, to the bridge of Ballantrae, is in a line of ſixteen Engliſh miles, through a hilly country, and yet ſo conducted that there is not a ſingle pull in the whole of it; whilſt, at the ſame time, it is carried through a moſt beautiful country, diverſified with wood and water, hill and glen, and every ſpecies of ſcenery, that can delight the eye of a traveller.

their tenants to carry all their grindable grain to particular mills, or to pay a ſtipulated multure, which frequently is as high as the tenth part carried to the mill; in ſome caſes it is even higher, and they are beſides obliged to perform indefinite mill-ſervices, according to what is called uſe and wont.

NUMBER VIII.

PARISH OF GALSTON.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE SMITH.

Origin of the Name, Situation, Extent, and Surface.

SOME have imagined that the name originated from a ſmall number of the Gauls, having made a temporary ſettlement in the village. But the derivation cannot now be aſcertained*. It lies in that diviſion of the county of Ayr called Kyle, in the preſbytery of Ayr, and ſynod of Ayr and Glaſgow. Its length is thirteen meaſured miles, and it is from four to five miles broad. The ſurface is very different. Towards the eaſtern boundary, there is a good deal of moſs, muir, and heathy ground. The ſoil, at the head of the pariſh, next Strathaven, is light and gravelly: But in the lower and more cultivated grounds, there is rich clay, and in ſome places

* Many names of places in the pariſh are derived from the Celtic, as *Achenbart*, or the field of the bards, *Lenfien*, the deſcent of the hill, &c. *Gall*, in that language, ſignifies ſtranger, but *ton* ſeems to be of Saxon original.

places loam. The bottom is, in general, a blue or red clay, and in ſome parts rather inclined to till.

Rivers and Fiſh.—The Irvine, which riſes a little above Loudoun hill, runs on the northern boundary of the pariſh, and is joined by many rivulets in the neighbourhood, in particular by the Glen, the Gower, the Burn-Anne, and the Ceſſnock.

All theſe ſtreams have very good trout, and the Irvine, at times, a few ſalmon. The Burn-Anne trouts, though large, are rather ſoft, as the ſtream comes from moſſy grounds; thoſe of the Irvine, and of the Ceſſnock in particular, are little inferior to char. Liming the lands has diminiſhed the number of the trouts, from the noxious quality of that article to fiſh. But their greateſt enemy is man. The few ſalmon that get over the mill-dams, are deſtroyed by means of hand nets and harpoons. Scarcely one ſalmon in aſeaſon can be caught by the rod, where 20 or 30 years ago, any ſkilful perſon, might, for his amuſement, have killed ſcores of them.

Lochs.—There are two lochs in the pariſh; one Loch-Gait, at its eaſtern extremity, is a ſheet of deep and clear water, abounding in trouts and very large eels. It is the chief ſource of the water of Even, or Aven, which joins the Clyde below Hamilton, and gives name to the pariſh of Strathaven, or Avendale. The other is Brunt-wood loch, towards Mauchlin. It breeds an immenſe number of wild ducks; and, in ſevere winters, great flocks of ſwans frequent it for the benefit of the ſprings. A bird, which the people here call a hether blutter, perhaps it is the bittern (it makes a loud roaring noiſe) built its neſt on the iſland in the loch, about eight or nine years ago, but as ſome ſuperſtitious people ſuggeſted that its loud and uncommon

common cries forboded no good, ſoon either deſtroyed or baniſhed.

Air, Climate, Hills, &c.—The air may be called rather moiſt, but it is not unhealthy.——In common with all the weſtern coaſt of Scotland, there are frequent rains, and high winds; the latter of which are ſuppoſed to contribute much to the general health of the inhabitants. Sometimes, even in ſummer, and autumn, the rain falls in conſiderable quantities, and in large drops.——The moſt remarkable hills are Cairnſaigh, which, in the Celtic, ſignifies, *The Hill of Peace*; where probably, in former times, ſome truce or other agreement was made between two neighbouring clans, regarding their boundaries; and thus the large dykes, and cairns of ſtones, on the top of Cairnſaigh may be accounted for. Mol-mount *(Mollis Mons)* is arable to the top. The view from this hill is delightful; a great part of Carrick, moſt of Kyle, and all Cunningham being ſeen from it. In the neighbourhood, there is under view, the antient ſeats of Ceſſnock Tower and Loudoun Caſtle, with their extenſive woods and plantations, the thriving village of Galſton, the turnings and windings of the Irvine, &c.; and, with regard to diſtant objects, in fine weather, the iſland of Arran, (which ſerves as a barometer to this country), and even Ireland itſelf, may be clearly diſtinguiſhed.

Antiquities.—There are the remains of a druidical temple on the top of Mol-mount-hill, of a circular form, and of about ſixty feet diameter. A great part of the circle has of late been deſtroyed, and the ſtones taken away.——Some years ago, in Mr Brown's grounds of Waterhaughs, an antient burial place was dug up; an account of which was publiſhed at the time by Dr. Lawrie miniſter of Loudoun.——At Claymore, about ten years ago, an urn, containing ſome ſilver and other coins was

found, and in the garden of Waterhaughs, 22 ſilver coins of 5 different ſorts were diſcovered. They were ſold for the price of bullion, and brought only about L. 3. The inſcription on one of theſe coins, which ſtill remains, is,

ARCHI. AVST. DVX. BVRG. BRAB.

And on the reverſe,

PHIL. IIII. D. G. HISP. ET. INDIAR. REX. 1622.

Among other antiquities there may be mentioned, ſeveral ſmall hills, called Laws, on which there are cairns of ſtones. Alſo a place call *Beg*, above Allinton, where the brave Wallace lay, in a ſpecies of rude fortification, with only 50 of his friends, yet obtained a complete victory over an Engliſh officer of the name of Fenwick, who had 200 men under his command. This gallant hero, it is well known, had ſeveral places of retirement towards the head of this pariſh, and in the neighbourhood, ſome of which retain his name to this day; Wallace-hill in particular, an eminence near the Galla-law, and a place called Wallace-Gill, in the pariſh of Loudoun, a hollow glen, to which he probably retired for ſhelter when purſued by his enemies.

Sheep.—There are ſome ſheep farms in the pariſh, in which about 2500 ſheep, of the black-faced or Lammer-muir breed are grazed. The paſture is exceedingly healthy, and there is ſeldom any loſs by diſeaſe. In the lower grounds a few Engliſh ſheep are alſo kept. The wool of the muir ſheep is coarſe, and it takes from eight to nine fleeces to the trone ſtone.

State of Agriculture.—There are about 100 farmers, but only 80 ploughs; two farmers ſometimes joining to keep one plough. Allowing 30 acres to every plow, the number in actual tillage would be 2400; and, as the tenants are in general allowed to plough only one third of their farms, hence the whole

whole arable land in the pariſh may be calculated at three times as much, or 7200 acres; of which one-third is ploughed, another paſtured, and the remainder cut for hay.

After ſix years reſt, and liming the land at the rate of 100 bolls of ſlacked lime per acre, it is uſual to take three ſucceſſive crops of oats. The lime is ſpread upon the green ſwaird before plowing, ſometimes not many weeks before the ground is plowed, which muſt occaſion much of the lime being loſt at the bottom of the furrow; yet it is aſtoniſhing what large crops are produced in this way.——Very little bear or barley is ſown. Peaſe, beans, &c. thrive extremely well, and ſhould certainly intervene between the crops of oats; though there is a great deal of difficulty in preſerving them, owing to frequent rains in harveſt.

The produce is chiefly oats; and, for theſe two or three years laſt paſt, a ſmall quantity of wheat.———Potatoes are raiſed in great quantities, both by the farmers and by the inhabitants of the village; the laſt renting the land neareſt them, at 3d. ½ and 4d per fall, and manuring and dreſſing the crop for themſelves. And though the tradeſmen might certainly buy their potatoes as cheap from the farmers, yet this practice tends much to promote their health, and amuſement at bye-hours, when otherwiſe they would be idle, and ought therefore to be encouraged.

One great article of produce is cheeſe, made after the Dunlop manner, and equally good*. It is ſent to Kilmarnock, Paiſley, Glaſgow, and Edinburgh.

The farmers, in general, raiſe their own ſtock of black

* The pariſh of Dunlop, was the firſt, in this part of Scotland, that took the lead in making excellent cheeſe for a diſtant market. They reſemble in taſte ſome of the better ſorts of Engliſh cheeſe, though not yet brought to equal perfection.

cattle. Many calves in the ſpring are fed for the Edinburgh market; and a few horſes are bred in the pariſh.——More grain is raiſed within the bounds of the diſtrict than what is neceſſary for its conſumption, and the ſurplus is carried to the great manufacturing towns in the neighbourhood.

The harveſt of 1782 was remarkably late, a great quantity of ſnow having fallen before the crop was cut; and the corn was picked out from among it, in the beſt manner it could. In ſeveral fields the grain was covered with frozen ſnow, and hardly any part of the crop was to be ſeen.

The ſoil, particularly next Straven, is well adapted for turnips, but little of that root has as yet been raiſed. From 20 to 30 acres are generally ſown with flax, and the produce is dreſſed by a water-mill in the village. The quantity of flax manufactured there, is from 900 to 1000 ſtones avoirdupoiſe, and about the half of that quantity is heckled. Little flax is dreſſed in any other manner; though, by the hand, is by far the ſafeſt method, and ſubject to much leſs waſte, than when water mills are employed. Clover and rye-graſs, eſpecially the latter, is ſown for hay, when the land is allowed to reſt.—— White clover is, in moſt places, the natural product of the ſoil.

Proprietors and rent.—There are about 50 heritors great and ſmall; of whom Miſs Scot of Scotſtarvet is by much the moſt conſiderable, having purchaſed, in 1787, the extenſive baronies of Ceſſnock, Hainingroſs, and others.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L.4644 : 3 : 10, Scots; the real rent from L. 5000 to L. 6000 ſterling.——The greater part of the land is incloſed. Good land lets for about 20s per acre, and near the village at double the ſum.

Woods

Woods and Planting.—There is a great deal of fine old planting, many very large Scots firs, and ſome copſe wood round the houſe of Ceſſnock. Within theſe 20 years, very extenſive plantations have been raiſed by Mr Brown of Water-haughs, and other proprietors in the pariſh. Near old Barr caſtle, there is a very remarkable old elm, which meaſures 24 feet round, has 12 feet of trunk at the top, and ſpreads itſelf into 24 branches, many of which, are themſelves large trees. A tree called the Maiden-Oak, was lately ſold for about L. 13. By the oldeſt leaſes on the Barr eſtate, the tenants were bound to plant, at leaſt twelve aſh yearly. This accounts for the beautiful appearance of the farm houſes on that property, which are in general ſurrounded by trees.

Fowls and Birds.—There are here all the common tame fowls of the country. The muirs yield plenty of grouſe, and partridges abound in the low grounds. Within theſe 13 or 14 years, ſome wood-larks have been ſeen in the plantations of Ceſſnock; and about the ſame time bull-finches firſt appeared; and have now increaſed to a very conſiderable number. They do great damage to the bloſſoms of the plumbs, and ſmall fruit; a loſs which is ſcarcely compenſated by their deſtroying, at the ſame time, ſome grubs and caterpillars, and filling the neighbouring woods with the muſic of their pipes. Woodcocks, in the winter and ſpring are to be found in great numbers; and within 5 or 6 years, pheaſants have bred in the pariſh, but have been, in a great meaſure, deſtroyed by poachers.

Minerals.—Miſs Scot has a valuable coal, now working, within a quarter of a mile of the village; and alſo an exceeding good lime quarry, which ſufficiently ſerves all the tenants on this part of her extenſive domains.——It is worthy of remark, that within theſe 40 or 50 years, all the fuel made uſe of here,

here, was peats from Galſton muir, a few coals excepted, which were carried in ſacks on horſes backs, from Caprington, near Kilmarnock, through almoſt impaſſible clay roads. The late Mr Wallace of Ceſſnock is the gentleman, to whom this neighbourhood owes the important advantages both of coal and lime, which have ſo materially contributed to its improvement. There is no doubt, that all the muir edges abound in iron ore, which might be ſmelted to great profit. At Cairnſaigh, there was lately diſcovered, on the banks of the Aven, a vein of very rich iron ore; and ſeveral tons were wrought out by the Muirkirk company. But it was given up for want of proper roads to convey it.——The Burn-Anne throws up at times ſome good pebbles, which are ſuppoſed to come from the ſides of the Mol-mount-hill, where it is ſaid they abound.—There are many ſtone quarries in the pariſh; and, cloſe to the village, abundance of ſtone of a red colour, which is well calculated for building.

Population.—In 1755, the population of Galſton amounted to 1013 ſouls.

It appears, from an actual and pretty accurate ſurvey taken in 1790, that the number had increaſed to 1577, of which 1219 were examinable.

In the village of Galſton, which, An. 1779, contained only 455 ſouls, there are at preſent 573, of which the following is an analyſis.

Population table for the village of Galſton, March the 21ſt, 1791.

Souls - -	573	Examinable perſons	473
Males - -	257	Females - -	316
More women than men	59	Widows - -	30
			Famlies

Families	152	Lint millers	4
Day-labourers	7	Colliers	7
Carters	3	Gardener	1
Maſons	9	Mole-catcher	1
Weavers	55	Baker	1
Wrights	11	Paper-makers	3
Stocking-weavers	11	Dyers	2
Taylors	11	Sempſtreſſes	4
Coopers	2	Horſe dealers	2
Carriers	2	Black-ſmiths	4
Butchers	2	Drummer	1
Tambourers, i. e. girls who ſew with the tambouring needle	24	Flax-dreſſers	2
		Surgeon	1
Grocers	5	Druggiſt	1
Shoe-makers	21	School-maſter	1

From Whitſunday 1785, to December 1788, there were 68 mariages.

	Births.	Deaths.
In 1783	44	39
1784	43	44
1785	45	34
1786	42	24
1787	46	28
1788	47	35
1789	47	26
1790	50	41

Theſe births, &c. are excluſive of ſuch as have not been recorded, by perſons who are not of the Eſtabliſhment.

Since 1779, about 40 houſes have been built; and, feuing

ing continues to go on rapidly, inſomuch that 12 new houſes were feued this year.——The conveniencies for building and carrying on manufactures are very great; to which may be added, reaſonable ground-rents, abundance of ſtone and lime, excellent water, and a rich and populous country. Till of late, the chief manufacture was ſhoes, which were made for merchants in Kilmarnock, and exported. Now, the weaving of lawn and gauze is the chief object; and, if a little money were laid out in eſtabliſhing theſe manufactures, while Paiſley and Glaſgow flouriſh, this pariſh might expect to thrive.

The firſt loom for ſilk or light work, was ſet up here in 1787. At this time there will be about 40. The weavers of Galſton depend on Glaſgow and Paiſley. It would be deſirable to have an woollen manufacture attempted. The premiums given by the Truſtees might contribute to its eſtabliſhment. There is ſome paper manufactured, but it is chiefly of the coarſe ſort.

Local Cuſtoms.—It is uſual for even the women to attend funerals in the village, dreſt in black or red cloaks.——Another ſingular cuſtom prevails here: When a young man wiſhes to pay his addreſſes to his ſweet-heart, inſtead of going to her father's, and profeſſing his paſſion, he goes to a public houſe; and, having let the land-lady into the ſecret of his attachment, the object of his wiſhes is immediately ſent for, who never almoſt refuſes to come. She is entertained with ale and whiſky, or brandy; and the marriage is concluded on. The ſecond day after the marriage, *a creeling*, as it is called, takes place. The young wedded pair, with their friends, aſſemble in a convenient ſpot. A ſmall creel or baſket is prepared for the occaſion, into which, they put ſome ſtones: The young men carry it alternately, and allow themſelves to be caught by the maidens, who have a kiſs when they ſucceed. Af-

ter a great deal of innocent mirth and pleaſantry, the creel falls at length to the young huſband's ſhare, who is obliged to carry it generally for a long time, none of the young women having compaſſion upon him. At laſt, his fair mate, kindly relieves him from his burden; and her complaiſance, in this particular, is conſidered as a proof of her ſatisfaction with the choice ſhe has made. The creel goes round again; more merriment ſucceeds, and all the company dine together, and talk over the feats of the field *.

Church, Manſe, Stipend, and Patron.—The church is antient, probably built before the Reformation. The manſe was built in 1727; but has ſince been frequently repaired. The ſtipend is 8 chalders, or 128 bolls of meal, and about L. 8 in money, with a glebe. The living was the ſame 100 years ago. Miſs Scot is patron.

State of the Poor.—The collections for the poor, with the intereſt of a ſmall ſum of money, bring in about L. 40. *per annum*, which is diſtributed among two claſſes. The firſt claſs conſiſts of the old, the infirm, young children, orphans, &c. who have a weekly penſion. Such as are rendered unfit, by temporary ſickneſs, to provide for themſelves and families, receive only an occaſional or interim ſupply.

The Seſſion takes an inventory of the goods of ſuch as have a weekly proviſion, which, at their death, are ſold for the behoof of the poor.——Intimation is given from the pulpit from time to time, to let no houſes to any perſon who is likely to be a burden on the pariſh. There are no native beggars, but too many of that deſcription from other pariſhes. The

* Perhaps the French phraſe, "*Adieu panniers, vendanges ſont faites,*" may allude to a ſimilar cuſtom.

number of stated poor is from 10 to 12, of occasional from 11 to 16.

There is an universal society for the relief of the poor, at Newmills, with a fund which is of great use to tradesmen in distress. Some of the natives of Galston belong to it. One, on a very simple principle, is established in this parish. It consists of about 50 members, and is called the penny or half-penny society. It has no funds, which are too apt to be embezzled; but, when a brother is confined to bed by sickness, every member pays him a penny weekly, and if able to go about, though not to work, a half-penny. This institution is found to answer; and might be adopted in other places with advantage.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are two great fairs at the village, one in July, the other in December. The first (St. Peter's) has greatly fallen off, but the custom is still retained of kindling fires on all the neighbouring hills, the evening before it is held.———The great roads from Edinburgh to Ayr, by Riccarton, and from Glasgow to Dumfries, by Mauchlin, pass through the village of Galston. The roads are chiefly made and kept in repair by the statute-labour.———There is an excellent parish school, and a school-house lately built, which accommodates 100 scholars. A sunday-school, erected by Mrs. Scot in 1787, and maintained at her sole expence, is attended with very good effects.

There are about 5 or 6 ale-houses in the village.———Kilmarnock is the nearest post town.——— There are 7 corn mills, 3 lint mills, and 1 paper mill. Of the former, one is known under the name of Patie's mill, and claims the honour of having given birth to that delightful song, "The lass of Patie's "mill." The banks of the Irvine, on which it is situated, abstracted from the charms of the fair, might well have inspired a

poet

poet of leſs powers and ſenſibility than Ramſay, with the ſentiments contained in that celebrated paſtoral.——The high multures formerly paid at theſe corn mills, are now, in a great meaſure, bought up and aboliſhed; though, in the lands of Greenholm, and a few others, they ſtill exiſt.———The only ſervices of a perſonal nature which remain, are, the common mill ſervices, of thatching the mill, dragging home the millſtone, &c. &c. and, on one eſtate, that of bringing home the maſter's hay.——The people are in general long lived; many having died within theſe few years between 70 and 100.--The conſumption is the moſt prevalent diſtemper, and the moſt fatal. The ſmall-pox makes frequent ravages; and inoculation is not ſo common as it ought to be. The religious prejudice againſt it is ſtill great. Of above 500 who have been inoculated in the ſpace of 12 years, not one has died.———It may be added, that the inhabitants of Galſton are, in general, ſober, induſtrious, and charitable to the diſtreſſed. It is to be regretted, however, that inſtead of the wholeſome beverage of ale, they are now compelled, by the high duties on that article, to betake themſelves to the uſe of whiſky, which is equally deſtructive to the health, and to the morals of the people.

NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF KILMARNOCK.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

The firſt part of the following very intereſting paper, was drawn up by the Rev. MR. JAMES MACKINLAY, *and the ſecond, by the Rev.* MR. JOHN ROBERTSON, *the Miniſters of that pariſh.*

PART I.

Origin of the Name, Extent, Climate, &c.

THE pariſh of Kilmarnock in the county of Ayr and preſbytery of Irvine, is, on many accounts, of very conſiderable importance, and furniſhes room for a variety of ſtatiſtical obſervations. In regard to extent, it is about nine miles long, and four broad; bounded by Newmills upon the eaſt, by Fenwick and Stewarton upon the north, by Kilmaurs upon the weſt, and by the river Irvine, which divides it from Riccarton and Galſton, upon the ſouth. The name Kilmarnock, or Cellmarnock, is evidently derived from St Marnock, who is ſaid to have been a biſhop or confeſſor in Scotland. He died, A. D. 322, and probably was interred here.——The appearance of the country is, in general, flat, with a gentle declivity to the ſouth. The ſoil is deep, ſtrong and fertile, but runs a little into a kind of moſs towards the north eaſt. The air, from its

local

local ſituation, and the frequent rains which fall in the weſt of Scotland, is moiſt and damp, but is far from being unhealthy. The inhabitants are ſeldom viſited with any epidemical diſtempers; and, it has been obſerved, that when the neighbouring ſea-port towns of Ayr and Irvine are labouring under ſuch diſorders, Kilmarnock, though to appearance in a leſs healthy ſituation, has been happily exempted. This perhaps, may, in ſome meaſure be attributed to a rivulet which runs through part of the town; which is not only ſerviceable to ſome of the manufactures carried on there, but greatly contributes to the health of the inhabitants. Inſtances of longevity, therefore are not uncommon. A few years ago, a woman who lived in the town, died at the advanced age of 107. Several now alive, are between 80 and 100; and there is a porter ſtill able to walk about, and carry parcels, whoſe age is aſcertained to be 105.

Population.—The return to Dr. Webſter of the population of Kilmarnock, was 4403 ſouls. In 1763, it amounted to about 5000. Its preſent ſtate is as follows.

Total number of ſouls - - -	6776
Of theſe males - - - -	3132
Females - - - -	3634
Souls in the town - - -	5670
—— in the country - - -	1106
Males in the town - - -	2586
Females in do. - - - -	3075
Males in the country - - -	547
Females in do. - - -	559
Males in town and country, above 8 years - -	2289
Females in do. above do. - - -	2784

Males

Males in do. under 8 years - -	846
Females in do. under do. - - -	850

Diviſion of the inhabitants according to their religious perſuaſions.

Cameronians - - -	40
Burghers - - - -	540
Antiburghers - - - -	480
Eſtabliſhed church - - -	5716
	6776

The difference between the males and females in the town, muſt ſtrike the moſt careleſs obſerver. This, however, ariſes from the wollen and cotton manufactures, which have induced ſeveral families, where the females were the moſt numerous, to come and ſettle in this place. That difference is not very material in the country part of the pariſh.

This vaſt increaſe of population has ariſen from the progreſs of manufactures, by which means, many families have been led to come from neighbouring pariſhes to get employment here; and partly, perhaps, from the regular and comfortable mode of living that has been eſtabliſhed; which is always found to be peculiarly favourable to the increaſe of the human ſpecies. The annual average of births and deaths cannot, at preſent, be preciſely aſcertained, as few, or none of the diſſenters enter their children's names in the pariſh regiſter. By this means, Government is not only deprived of a tax, but an injury may be done to their poſterity; who, in caſe of any diſpute, will not have it in their power, from that authentic record, to prove their age, propinquity, or extraction. From the following extract, however, taken from this regiſter, ſome

ſome idea may be formed of the gradual increaſe of population in this pariſh ſince the Union.

Years.	Births.	Deaths.
1707	92	—
1709	88	—
1730	109	92
1745	116	102
1790	200	173

Manufactures.—Kilmarnock is one of the principal manufacturing towns in Ayrſhire, and, for many years has carried on a very conſiderable trade. Manufactures were at firſt gradually introduced, but of late have made a very rapid progreſs.

About fifty years ago, the principal trade was carried on by three or four individuals, who bought ſerges and other woollen articles from private manufactures, and exported them to Holland. When the demand afterwards increaſed, a company was formed, who erected an woollen factory for different branches of that buſineſs, which ever ſince has continued in a very flouriſhing ſtate. The ſhoe trade was introduced about the ſame time; and now the woollen and ſhoe trades are the moſt extenſive and important in the diſtrict. Several ſpinning jeanies, however, for cotton, have been lately erected, and a carding and ſpinning machine for coarſe wool; all of which ſeem to do very well.

The following is an account drawn up by the moſt intelligent manufacturers in the town, of the preſent annual average value of the different branches carried on in Kilmarnock.

Carpets

Carpets manufactured - - -	L.	21,400	0 0
Shoes and boots - -		21,216	0 0
Cow, calf, and ſeal-ſkins tanned -		9,000	0 0
Printed calicoes - - -		6,500	0 0
Sheep and lamb ſkins dreſſed - -		6,500	0 0
Leather gloves - - -		3,500	0 0
Cotton cloth - - -		2,251	0 0
Duffles - - - - -		1,670	0 0
Coverlets - - - -		600	0 0
Blankets - - - -		700	0 0
Plaidings - - -		396	0 0
Serges, mancoes, and ſaddlers cloth, &c.		611	0 0
Saddlery goods for home and foreign ſale		600	0 0
Candles - - - -		1,200	0 0
Stockings knit by women - -		600	0 0
Tobacco and ſnuff manufactured -		3,700	0 0
Bar, rod, and caſt iron manufactured -		1,000	0 0
Bonnets - - - -		506	0 0
Milled caps and mitts - - -		1,200	0 0
Dyers - - - -		1,000	0 0
Cabinet work - - -		2,000	0 0
Creelman's compoſition, a ſubſtitute for gum arabic in calico printing - -		700	0 0
	L.	86,850	0 0

In theſe different branches from two or three thouſand hands may be employed. There are 56 maſter ſhoemakers, who employ 408 men. The number of weavers of different denominations, though conſiderable, has not been aſcertained; but it is reckoned, that 200 of this profeſſion are employed by the manufacturers of Glaſgow and Paiſley alone. As a manufactur-

ing town this place has advantages and diſadvantages, which it may not be improper briefly to mention. Among the advantages may be reckoned its ſituation in the midſt of a populous and fertile country, where proviſions of all kinds are to be had in abundance, and at moderate prices. Coal, ſo neceſſary in almoſt every branch of manufacture, is found cloſe to it in vaſt abundance, and may be had eaſier and cheaper than in any other town in the neighbourhood. The town is furniſhed with a meal-market, plentifully ſupplied with good and wholeſome grain; and always a penny or three halfpence a peck cheaper than in the Glaſgow or Paiſley markets. Indeed all ſorts of proviſions, eſpecially meal, butter, eggs, and poultry, are ſo much cheaper in this part of the country, that they are conſtantly carried to the Glaſgow and Paiſley markets, not merely to ſupply the demands of theſe populous towns, but to bring greater prices than can be got for them at home. The town is alſo provided with an excellent market for all ſorts of butcher meat, which is reckoned by far the beſt in the neighbourhood; in ſo much that many families in Glaſgow, at the diſtance of 21 miles, are ſupplied from it; induced, partly by the ſuperior quality of the meat, and partly by an addition to the weight of an ounce and a half to the pound.——The chief diſadvantage under which the place labours, is, its inland ſituation, being about ſix or ſeven miles diſtant from the ſea. This occaſions a conſiderable expence in the land carriage of raw materials, as well as in their exportation, when manufactured. A propoſal was made ſome time ago to have this diſadvantage removed, by a canal from the ſea below Troon-point, to the bridge at the ſouth end of Glencairn-ſtreet. This undertaking would no doubt be attended with great expence; but as, from all accounts, it is practicable, (the lands through which it would run having no great aſcent), if accompliſhed, it would

certainly render Kilmarnock the moſt eligible and flouriſhing manufacturing town in the weſt of Scotland *.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—There are in Kilmarnock no leſs than five places of public worſhip. Firſt, The pariſh church, which is collegiate, and continued to be the only place of divine ſervice, until the year 1731. Being then found unable to contain the people of the pariſh, the Town-Council and inhabitants next erected a handſome new church or chapel, in which the collegiate miniſters officiated alternately; until 1763, when, owing to a violent ſettlement, that took place by order of the General Aſſembly, the proprietors of houſes called a miniſter of their own, who was ordained by the Preſbytery.——There is a Burgher ſeceding meeting-houſe, erected in 1772; and an Antiburgher one, built in 1775: and, finally, there is an old diſſenting meeting-houſe, connected with what is called, the Reformed Preſbytery, erected in the neighbourhood of the town, An. 1785. It muſt be obſerved, however, that notwithſtanding ſo many diviſions, the people in general, of all denominations, live together in the beſt habits of friendſhip, as Chriſtians ought to do; and that eccleſiaſtical rancour, has fortunately given place to the milder diſpoſitions of forbearance, benevolence, and charity.

Patronage and Stipend.—The Archbiſhop of St. Andrews,

as

* This canal is certainly one of the moſt deſirable that can be made in Scotland. Troon-bay is one of the beſt harbours in the weſtern parts of the kingdom, with deep water, and every other advantage. Perhaps the canal, inſtead of ſtopping at Kilmarnock, ought to be extended to Glaſgow, which is only 21 miles farther.

as Abbot of Kilwinning, to whom the patronage of Kilmarnock originally belonged, diſponed it to Robert Lord Boyd; from one of whoſe ſucceſſors it was purchaſed by an Earl of Glencairn; from whoſe family it was lately acquired by Miſs Scot of Scotſtarvet.——There are two eſtabliſhed miniſters. The living of the firſt is wholly paid in meal: the quantity is eight chalders, wanting a boll; and, with a glebe of 12 acres, may be worth L. 120 *per annum.* The ſecond charge, including a ſmall glebe of 4½ acres, may be calculated at nearly L. 105.

Heritors.—The number of heritors in the pariſh is about 24; but, excepting Colonel Crawfurd of Crawfurdland, no conſiderable proprietor reſides in it. The greater part of the pariſh is the property of Miſs Scot, who has lately made very extenſive purchaſes in this neighbourhood.——It is a ſingular circumſtance, in regard to the Crawfurdland family, that its preſent reſpectable repreſentative, is the twenty-firſt, lineally deſcended from the original ſtock, without the intervention of even a ſecond brother. The Counteſs of Loudoun, another proprietor, repreſents the antient family of the Muirs of Rowallen; from whom the greater part of the ſovereigns of Europe are deſcended; Robert III. king of Scotland, being the ſon of Robert II. by Elizabeth Muir, daughter of Sir Adam Muir, of Rowallen.

State of the Poor.—The poor, in ſuch a large and populous pariſh, it is to be expected, muſt be very numerous, and would require a conſiderable ſum for their ſupport. The ſocieties and incorporations are of great ſervice in maintaining their indigent and diſtreſſed members, and thereby keeping them from being a burden upon the public. They diſtribute annually, among their poor and afflicted brethren, L. 180.

The number of poor who are upon the penſion liſt, and receive weekly alms from the Seſſion, is 80, beſides others who receive occaſional ſupplies. The contribution, at the church and chapel, annually averages at L. 100; which, together with the intereſt of L. 100, and ſome occaſional donations, is all that is diſtributed among the poor. From theſe funds, they can only receive from 6d. to 1s. each, per week; which, although it may aſſiſt them a little, is by no means able to ſupport them in their own houſes, even when joined to the profits of any little labour which ſome of them may have ſtrength to perform. Begging, therefore, is allowed, and is a very great burden upon the inhabitants. The poor, indeed, will never be ſuitably or permanently provided for, until the proprietors of land agree to aſſeſs themſelves in a ſum that may be adequate to this purpoſe: and when it is conſidered, that the greater part of the heritors are non-reſiding, that they contribute nothing to the maintenance of the poor by their own perſonal charity, and that the value of their property is greatly increaſed by the manufactures and population of the place; ſuch a meaſure, muſt appear, to every humane and benevolent heart, to be highly equitable and proper; and, it is hoped, will be ſoon carried into effect.

Coal.—There is an extenſive and profitable coal work in the pariſh, about half a mile to the ſouth weſt of the town. The mines are rich and abundant, affording coal of different qualities, ſome fit for export, and ſome for home conſumption. The ſpecies that is raiſed for exportation, is known in this country by the name of Blind-coal. It is of a fine quality, and much eſteemed. The quantity of this ſpecies annually exported, is 3289 $\frac{1}{8}$ tons, which, at 9s per ton, is L. 1390 : 1 : 6$\frac{3}{4}$. This immenſe quantity is carried by land to Irvine, about ſix miles diſtance, and from thence exported to different places

in Ireland, as Cork, Dublin, Belfaſt, Drogheda, Lairn, Donaghadee, Sligo, and indeed into every port where there is a ſufficiency of water to carry the ſmalleſt craft. It is likewiſe exported to many of the Highland iſles, for the purpoſe of drying malt and corn, and burning of lime-ſtone. The *fire*, or ſeeing-coal, (ſo called from the light it gives), is of a rich and caking quality, reſembling the Engliſh coal. The yearly home conſumpt of this ſpecies is 52,143 loads, which, at 7d. per load, is L. 1520:16:9. The total income from this work, then, is L. 2910:18:3¾ *per annum*, which will proportionably increaſe with the growing population and advancing manufactures of the town.——The number of hands employed in raiſing the above-mentioned quantities, and in carrying them to the ſhore, is, at an average, 120.

The Town.—The town lies low, and its form is extremely irregular. It is a burgh of barony, governed by two baillies and a council of ſeventeen. The firſt charter, erecting it into a burgh, was granted An. 1591, in favour of Thomas Lord Boyd. A ſecond charter was obtained, in 1672, in favour of William, Earl of Kilmarnock, which was ratified in parliament the ſame year.

In 1700, the Magiſtrates and Town Council obtained a grant from the Kilmarnock family, of the whole common good, and cuſtoms of the burgh, comprehending the common green, ſhops under the tolbooth, weights and meaſures, &c. It is in virtue of this grant that the corporation holds its preſent property, and is conſidered as an heritor in the pariſh. There are in the town five incorporated trades; the bonnet makers, ſkinners, taylors, ſhoemakers, and weavers; of which, the bonnet makers, incorporated in 1646, is the moſt antient.——Theſe ſocieties are of very great ſervice in

preſerving

preserving regularity and good order in the different branches of trade in which they are occupied.

Schools.—There are two public and established schools in the town, besides a number of private ones, which are also found to be necessary for the purpose of educating the numerous children of this place. First, there is a grammar school, for the sole purpose of teaching Latin and other languages. The master has L. 12 : 2 of salary, 5s. per quarter from each of his scholars, besides a voluntary offering at Candlemas. There is next an English school: the master of which has L. 10 of salary, 2s 6d. per quarter from such as read English, 3s. from such as read English and write, and 4s. from those who are also taught arithmetic. These schools are flourishing, and well attended. The first, indeed, had, some time ago, fallen into disrepute; but from the attention and ability of the present teacher, is increasing in numbers and celebrity. The other has always been well attended, and, for many years has consisted of more than 100 scholars.

Inns and Alehouses.—The number of inns and alehouses in the town is 50, exclusive of spirit shops; and, besides, three or four in the country. These must have a pernicious effect upon the morals of the people; for in proportion as the number of houses of this nature is multiplied, the temptation to intemperance, and the ease and secrecy with which it may be indulged are evidently increased. In justice, however, to the inhabitants of Kilmarnock, it must be observed, notwithstanding the great number of houses of this description, yet that in general they are as sober and industrious, as the people of any town of its size in Scotland: Nay, to their praise, it must likewise be observed, that the ruinous practice of dram-drinking has of late been, in a great measure, laid aside, and the more salutary

lutary and healthful beverage of ale or porter, introduced in its ſtead. Nor muſt it be omitted, that to ſobriety and induſtry, they add the amiable virtues of charity and beneficence. This is evident, not only from the large collections made every ſunday at the church doors, principally ariſing from the charity of the middling and induſtrious part of the community, but alſo from the extraordinary acts of generoſity, which ſome individuals have performed. In particular, when the poor were in the utmoſt diſtreſs, during winter 1790, and when all that could be afforded from the uſual funds, was not able to procure them even the common neceſſaries of life, an individual, with a delicacy which did him peculiar honour, ſent a conſiderable ſum of money, in an anonymous card, to one of the miniſters, to be laid out for their relief.

Poſt-Office and Exciſe.—There is a poſt-office in the town, for this, and for the neighbouring pariſhes. The mail-coach from Glaſgow to Ayr paſſes through Kilmarnock, by which letters are brought and ſent every day. The poſtage of a ſingle letter from Edinburgh to this place is 4d. and from Glaſgow 3d. The poſt office yields about L. 400 *per annum*. The exciſes on ale, ſpirits, candles, &c. produce about L. 1700 more.

Both theſe branches of revenue are rapidly increaſing, with the trade and population of the place.

Antiquities and Curioſities.—The only antiquities which ſeem worthy of notice, are Dean caſtle, and Soules croſs. The former ſtands about half a mile north-eaſt from the town, and was the reſidence of the noble, but unfortunate family of Kilmarnock. It is a very antient edifice, but no information can now be obtained of the time when it was built. In 1735, it was entirely conſumed by fire. This accident

cident was occaſioned by the inattention of a maid ſervant, who was preparing ſome lint for ſpinning, which unhappily took fire, by which means this noble and ancient ſtructure was laid in ruins. In this ſituation it ſtill continues; and the hand of time is gradually accompliſhing what the fury of the flames had ſpared. On the top of an arch, and in the centre of the dining-room, an aſh tree is at preſent growing, and has attained ſome height, which the credulous ſay, fulfils a prediction emitted in the time of the laſt perſecution. The ruins from the ſouth-weſt have ſtill a magnificent appearance, and ſtrike the mind with the melancholy idea of fallen grandeur. ——Soules croſs, which gives name to a quarter of the town, is a ſtone pillar of eight or nine feet high, ſituated in the north-eaſt part of the town, near the entrance of the new church. It was erected in memory of Lord Soules, an Engliſh nobleman, who is ſaid to have been killed on the ſpot, in 1444, by an arrow from one of the family of Kilmarnock. ——Some years ago, it was falling into ruins; but the inhabitants of that quarter, from a commendable reſpect for this piece of antiquity, collected a ſum of money among themſelves, cauſed the broken pieces to be put together, and again erected it, with a ſmall gilt vane upon the top, bearing this inſcription, L. SOULES, 1444.

PART II.

Country Part of the Pariſh.—As nearly as can be collected without an actual admeaſurement, there are about 5900 acres (Scots meaſure) in the country or landward part of the pariſh. This is valued in the ceſs books of the county, at L. 7025 Scots, and pays the land tax accordingly; but the real rent at preſent, including what is poſſeſſed by proprietors, may be nearly

nearly L. 5400 ſterling; which is, at an average, above 18s per acre. Some particular farms are let conſiderably higher, at 25s or 26s, and one at 36s, and ſmall incloſures near the town from 50s to L. 4 per acre; while thoſe at greater diſtance from the town, and near the muirs, are ſometimes as low as 12s. The rent of the different lands in the pariſh, however, has lately been brought much nearer a level than formerly, by the good roads that are now made through the whole of it. About 20 years ago, Mr Orr of Barrowfield, who was proprietor of a large eſtate at a diſtance from the town, and neareſt the muirs, ſeeing the importance that good roads would be of to his eſtate, was at a great expence in opening a communication with the high-ways, leading to Glaſgow and other towns, as well as in making ſeveral other valuable and important improvements; in conſequence of which, his property has become as valuable as any in the neighbourhood; and ſome of the farms on that eſtate, are amongſt the higheſt rented of any that are in it.

Soil and Mode of Incloſing.—There is not much difference of ſoil throughout the pariſh. In general, it is a ſtrong rich ſoil, conſiſting of clay, with a mixture of ſand, and near the muirs ſome moſs. There are ſome fine holms along the ſide of the Irvine, conſiſting of ſand and fine loam, brought down by the river and left on its banks after floods. It is a great detriment to the grounds in this pariſh, as well as in the greater part of Ayrſhire, that the bottom is a ſtrong till, almoſt impenetrable by water; reaching, in general, 30 or 40 fathoms deep, or even more, while the ſoil on the ſurface, is little more than a foot, merely what the plow has repeatedly turned up to the influence of the weather. The conſequence of this is, that the autumnal rains, which fall peculiarly heavy in the weſtern parts of the kingdom, having no

longer the heat of the ſun, as in ſummer, to exhale them, lie and ſtagnate on the ſurface of the ground, during the whole winter; which greatly injures it, and, for a time, even deſtroys its vegetative powers. The bad effects of this circumſtance, however, are now not nearly ſo much, nor ſo generally felt as formerly. This, in a great meaſure, is owing to the numberleſs drains made by the ditches, which have been drawn, in all directions, for incloſing the grounds: For the common, or rather univerſal method of incloſing in this fertile part of the country, where ſtones are ſcarce, is by ditches, with hawthorn hedges planted in the ſides, or on the top of the banks. This method was little known, and ſtill leſs practiſed, till about 35 or 40 years. Before that period, no incloſure was to be ſeen, except, perhaps, one or two about a gentleman's ſeat, in all the wide, extended, and beautiful plain of Cunninghame. Hence, at the end of harveſt, when the crop was carried from the fields into the barn-yard, the whole country had the appearance of a wild and dreary common, and nothing was to be ſeen, but here and there, a poor, bare, and homely hut, where the farmer and his family were lodged. The cattle too, were then allowed to wander about at pleaſure through all the neighbouring fields, till the graſs began to riſe in the ſpring, and miſerably poached all the arable ground, now ſaturated with the water that lay on the ſurface. To ſuch a degree was this miſchief done, by the ranging of the cattle in ſearch of food, when none was to be found, that, in many places, it deſtroyed all proſpect of any crop, worth the labour of the huſbandman, for the enſuing year; and, in ſome inſtances, for many years to come. But now the ſcene is completely altered, and infinitely to the better. There is, at this time, ſcarcely a ſingle farm, in all that wide-extended plain, that is not incloſed with ditch and hedge, and moſt of them with numbers of intermediate ones, to ſeparate the fields from each other.

other. By this means, the farmers have it in their power to confine the cattle, through the winter, to the fields where they can do leaſt harm by poaching; the water is moſtly drained from the ſurface; and the ground is, in ſome degree, ſheltered by the hedges from the ſeverity of the winter cold and ſtorms. This, along with the other improvements made upon the ſoil, has rendered the grounds much more productive and fruitful than ever they were in any former period, probably 3 or 4 times at leaſt. In conſequence, however, of this method of incloſure with thorn hedges, ſheep are nearly baniſhed from this country; nor is there any individual who can venture to keep any conſiderable number of them, at leaſt, of the wilder ſorts; though the larger or tamer breeds might perhaps be tried to advantage.

Manures.—From the nature of the ſoil in general through this pariſh, it is better calculated for producing grain, than feeding black cattle. In conſequence of this, the improvements are principally directed to the meliorating of the ſoil, and preparing it for the plough. As no marle of any kind has as yet been found, the manures made uſe of, are only the dung collected in the town, or at the different farms, together with coal-aſhes and lime: Some ſmall quantities of horn ſhavings alſo have occaſionally been brought from Ireland, and raiſe good crops for two or three years, without injuring the ſoil: The aſhes do well enough for a year or two, upon a ſandy ſoil, but are prejudicial where there is clay: and it is only near the town where theſe can be had; ſo that, all that the farmer has to depend on, is the dung made on his own farm, and lime. Of the laſt, there is ſome in the higher parts of the pariſh; but the greater part of what is uſed, is brought from the neighbourhood, at the diſtance of a few miles. Fifty bolls of ſhells, or 100 bolls of ſlaked lime is commonly laid on, per acre,

when ground is to be broke up by the plow; and has not been lately limed before; but rather leſs (perhaps 70 or 80) if it has. But ſome have gone much farther; and, when the ground was a very ſtrong clay, and had never been limed before, they have found it greatly to their advantage. One hundred and fifty or two hundred bolls have been uſed in this caſe. The uſual method, in this pariſh, is, to ſpread the lime on the ground, in the beginning of the winter before the field is broken up. But ſome judge it better to have it ſpread on the ground ſo long before, that it may remain on it for two winters and a ſummer; by which means, it becomes better incorporated with the ſoil; is not ſo apt to ſink into the bottom of the furrow made by the plow; nor ſo ready to hurt the enſuing crop, if it ſhould chance to turn out a dry ſeaſon after it is plowed down. It is, however, a general perſuaſion, that land ought, if poſſible, to be limed and dunged alternately, in order to receive the full benefit of lime as a manure: for if repeatedly limed, without a ſufficient quantity of dung, and plowed often, it is gradually exhauſted, and becomes, almoſt, a *caput mortuum*.

Crops. ——Every intelligent farmer, in this diſtrict, is now ſenſible, that, a proper rotation of crops is of the utmoſt importance in huſbandry; and that the ground, with the ſame manure, will continue in equal, or even in better heart, for at leaſt double the time, under a rotation properly calculated for the ſoil, than what it will do under a conſtant ſucceſſion of any one crop. The ſame method, however, does not ſuit all different ſoils; and, perhaps, the rotation that is moſt proper for each different ſoil, has not been ſo much attended to any where as it ought to have been, and is yet, in a great meaſure, left unaſcertained. But the proprietors of land, in this part of the country, have, almoſt univerſally, adopted a plan of letting

letting their grounds, which, in a great meaſure, prevents the tenants from making uſe of any rotation. In their leaſes, they bind the farmer to plow only three years, and then to keep the ground for ſix years in graſs. The leaſes are in general for 19 years, ſo that a farmer has it only in his power, during that term to have two breaks of his farm, together with what he can plow in the laſt year of his leaſe. This plan is attended with great diſadvantages to the proprietor, to the tenant, and to the public. Under ſuch a reſtriction, the whole efforts of the tenant to meliorate his ground, are confined to the firſt break. Then he limes and dungs to the utmoſt of his power; and, more eſpecially, endeavours to lay down his fields as richly as poſſible, in order that he may have good returns during the courſe of the ſecond break, without being at farther expence for manure, at a period of the leaſe when he cannot receive the full benefit of it. The conſequence of this is, that the greater part of the grounds are reduced to a very poor ſtate, before the end of the leaſe. The tenant again, when he has brought his grounds to a ſtate in which they could more eaſily than at firſt be rendered more productive, is reſtrained in his exertions, becauſe he cannot reap the full benefit ariſing from them, but muſt probably leave it to another, or pay a higher rent for it himſelf, than he would otherwiſe have done, and thus his intereſt is materially hurt: while the public ſuffers likewiſe, as more grain would undoubtedly have been raiſed, had the farmer had equal encouragement, to exert himſelf as much, in the latter part of the leaſe, as he found it for his intereſt to do in the former. Beſides, the term of tillage is too ſhort to allow any proper rotation of crops. The ground is ſown with oats when firſt broke up, and every one knows that the ſecond year after breaking up, affords the beſt crop of oats. Theſe two years, therefore, the ground muſt be ſown with the ſame ſpecies of grain, to enable the farmer to pay his rent,

and

and he can only make a change to another in the laſt year of that break. Thus, they are nearly deprived of the power of obſerving any regular rotation; and every one muſt ſee the diſadvantage that this muſt prove to all concerned. The only reaſon given for this reſtraint is, to put it out of the power of the farmer to run out his grounds at the end of the leaſe. But though he cannot, in conſequence of this reſtriction, overplow them; yet, by doing little or nothing, during the laſt break, he leaves them in a condition, poor enough to be highly detrimental to the intereſt of the proprietor, whilſt it proves an effectual check to the genius of the farmer, and prevents his trying many uſeful and important experiments, by which, both tenant and landlord, and indeed the public at large, would be benefited. Perhaps it might be more expedient to let leaſes upon one or more lives, leaving the period of their termination uncertain; or the tenants might be allowed to plow as much for four years, as they could properly manure the third year, which would be a great encouragement to their exertions *.

Potatoes.

* At the commencement of improvements in this part of the country, the ſowing of what is called *bear peaſe*, or giving a crop of peaſe the ſame pains, manure, and attention, that is uſually beſtowed on a crop of barley, was found the beſt mode of bringing in poor, weedy, or worn-out ground. The method practiſed was as follows: In the beginning of winter, or as early in the ſpring as poſſible, the ridges were plowed and gathered; and then, as ſoon as the oat ſeed was ſown, the ground was well harrowed, the ſolid crowns of the ridges were turned out by the plow. About 40 or 50 bolls of lime, and about as many carts of dung, or perhaps rather more of both, if the land was very poor and ſtiff, were then led out and ſpread upon each acre; this was plowed down, and then ſown with a late kind of ſmall gray pea, which runs out to a great length, and continues lengthening and flowering till the end of the ſeaſon. They were

Potatoes.—There may be about 30 acres in the parish planted annually with potatoes, which yield, at an average, about 30 bolls per acre, and may be worth from 8s to 10s per boll. The principal part of this crop is raised on spots adjacent to the town, by the inhabitants of Kilmarnock. Every tradesman takes as much ground for 3d. or 4d. per fall, as he can properly manure, and plants the potatoes with the spade. This, together with the hoeing and dressing them through the summer, and digging them up in the autumn, affords a healthful and agreeable exercise to the trades people, who are so much necessarily confined to their houses; and the produce makes a considerable part of their provision for 3 or 4 months at the end of autumn, and the beginning of winter; which, exclusive of the value of their labour, they have at a pretty reasonable rate. After potatoes, it has now become a pretty general practice to sow wheat, which usually makes a very good return. Little wheat indeed is raised in any other manner; though some of the farmers have tried it after fallow, and when the season answers, have had very good crops. Yet here it must always prove very precarious, owing to the great autumnal rains, which the soil, in most places, does not quickly enough drain off;

were generally sown about the end of April, or beginning of May. In consequence of the particular nature of the pea, and the late season of sowing, there there were little pease produced, but there was a complete and close covering given to the ground by the straw, which lying upon it all the season, cleaned and meliorated the soil to a surprising degree; and they scarce ever failed to have, from what was before the poorest ground, two excellent crops of oats, in the two succeeding years; and the land, after it had rested 6 years, was in very good order at the next break. This practice is now mostly given up, as the ground has all been brought in, but it was considered as the best method of improving a poor soil.

off; joined to the alternate froſts and thaws, which take place in the ſpring, by which it is ſometimes raiſed almoſt wholly out of the ground, before it is poſſible, from the wetneſs of the ſoil, to have it rolled to advantage.

Farms and Farm-Houſes.——The extent of the farms are in general, from 50 to 100 acres. At a medium about 70. It is but of late that the landlords have begun to pay any attention to the farm houſes on their eſtates. In general, however, a ſtranger ſtill views, with concern, the poor and mean-looking huts, in which the farmers are condemned to dwell, throughout all this country. Their habitation, and that of their cattle, are generally under the ſame roof, and only ſeparated from one another by partitions. Scarcely any of them have an upper ſtory, ſo that the whole family are obliged to ſleep upon the ground, on a damp ſoil, where the floor is not ſo much as paved with ſtone or flags, and where there is not even a fire place to draw off the moiſt and ſtagnant air. This muſt be attended with the worſt conſequences to the health of the people; whereas, were better and more comfortable houſes provided for the tenants, it would be a great inducement to them to pay better rents for their farms, and it would even be a means of enabling them to do ſo, by giving them greater ſecurity for their health, and rendering them better able attend to their buſineſs. Every houſe, therefore, ought to have as much of it raiſed to a ſecond ſtory, as would furniſh the whole family with ſufficient room to ſleep above ſtairs, with vents in every ſleeping apartment, in which fires might be put, occaſionally, and, which, at any rate, would act as ventilators, and, by keeping up the circulation of freſh air, would render conſumptive complaints, at preſent ſo fatal, muſt leſs frequent.

Thatching with Straw and Mortar.—There is nothing that

would be more desirable, than to discover some method of covering the roofs of farm-houses, so as to render them cheap and comfortable. A slate roof is too expensive in many parts of the country, from the difficulty of getting either the timber, or the slate. Tile roofs do not last, and common thatching is of very short duration, is more liable to the danger of fire, affords shelter and encouragement to vermin, and is very apt to be destroyed by violent winds. But there is a mode of thatching with straw and mortar, introduced into the neighbourhood of Kilmarnock, about 22 years ago, in consequence of a receipt given by the late Mr Macdowal of Garthland, which is, in many respects, preferable to every other, for the northern parts of the island.——The thatching is carried on in the usual manner; only mortar, very well prepared, and mixed with cut straw, is thinly spread over the strata of thatch, with a large trowel made for the purpose. One expert thatcher will require two men to serve him with straw, one to prepare the mortar, and a fourth to carry it up. If the work is properly done, it will make a covering which will last 40 or 50 years; and, when it begins to fail, it can easily be repaired. Sometimes clay is used instead of mortar, and answers nearly as well. As it makes a most excellent roof, the timbers ought to be good, and the spars straight, and neatly put on, that there may be no heights and hollows in it. Such a roof will stand in the most exposed situation, against the most violent winds; gives no shelter to vermin; is not near so much in danger of fire; and though a little more expensive at first than the common thatch, yet does much more than compensate for that circumstance, by its being so extremely durable.

Plantations.—Timber is very scarce in this part of the country, except about gentlemens houses. It is commonly reckoned not to be for the interest of the proprietor to plant forest

timber, where land can be let for 18s or 20s per acre. But though this may be the caſe with reſpect to the planting of large fields of arable ground, yet hedge-rows, or belts of planting, are well worth their room, from the ſhelter that they afford; and there are in every farm, even in the beſt cultivated grounds, many ſpots which the plow cannot reach, which, with a little attention and expence, might be planted, to the great ornament of the country, and to the great advantage of all concerned. Wherever ſuch ſpots are to be found, they ought to be incloſed and planted by the proprietors, and the care of them intruſted to the tenant, who ſhould be allowed to deduct yearly from his rent, (if the trees are properly taken care of) a certain ſum according to the extent of the ground planted, and the rent paid for the farm. Beſides, he ought to be permitted to make all ſuch farm utenſils as he needed, from theſe ſpots; only taking care to replace them when cut down, if they were not of a ſort that ſprouted again from the root.—This would prove a very important acquiſition to the tenant; and, beſides the benefit the ground would derive from the additional ſhelter, the proprietor would in time be more than compenſated, by the timber that would remain on his eſtate after all the demands of the farmer had been anſwered.

There is another method by which a very important addition might be made to the quantity of timber in the country. Every farm-houſe ought to have a large plot of ground, containing from one to two acres adjacent to it, for ſtacking the corn in winter, for graſs to any favourite milk cow, for a kitchen garden, &c. It ſhould be laid out on no uniform plan, but the figure of it varied every where, ſo as to ſuit the ſituation of the houſe, and the form of the fields around it. If any rivulet runs near the houſe, it ſhould be carried up through it, for the conveniency of waſhing and bleaching, and of watering the plot. But, what is of ſtill more importance, the

drainings

drainings from the ſtables and dunghill ſhould be conducted over it; by which means three or four rich crops of graſs would be raiſed in a ſeaſon. Round this ſpot, ſome rows of trees ſhould be planted, of ſuch kinds as are proper for farm utenſils, for covering the houſes, &c. Should this be done properly, the yard alone would ſupply much more than ever the farm would need; the tenant would always have timber at hand for all he wanted, and be at no farther expence but that of cutting down the trees, and making his utenſils; by which means he might always have them good in their kinds, and in perfect order at very little expence; the country would be highly beautified and adorned, while the tenant would after all reap more benefit from the ground thus employed, than from any other part of the farm of equal extent. A few fruit trees might be planted in one of the corners of this plot, and would ſeldom fail, in ſuch a ſituation, to produce a valuable crop. ——The foreſt trees, which are reckoned moſt proper for general uſe, are the aſh, the elm, the larix, and above all, the Huntington willow. From the top of one of theſe willows, when it comes to the ſize of a tree, and has been formerly cut over, there may be cut again, once in 16 or 20 years, for country purpoſes, as much as is equal in value to 8s or 10s. They grow rapidly in almoſt all ſoils, and are peculiarly excellent for the roofs of farm-houſes, thatched in the manner before deſcribed. If they are allowed to grow to a ſufficient age without being cut over, they make excellent houſehold furniture, take a fine poliſh, are very light, and laſt long.

If theſe plans were generally followed, it would complete, in the ſpace of a few years, the improved appearance of this part of the country, and add greatly to the comfort and happineſs of its inhabitants. The plain of Cunninghame, of which this pariſh makes a part, when viewed from the high grounds of Kyle, lies in the form of a large and beautiful amphitheatre,

above 20 miles in diameter, and is eſteemed by all who have viewed it, as naturally one of the moſt delightful vallies to be found in Great Britain. But the principal part of it being the property of ſome great landlords, there are, of conſequence, but few gentlemens houſes in it. It is, therefore, the more neceſſary, that it ſhould be ornamented with neat and good looking farm-houſes, and with a conſiderable number of groves, and plantations of trees, in order to give it a thriving and proſperous appearance.——It is to be hoped, that this will ſoon be brought about; and, perhaps, no objects are better intitled to the attention of a public-ſpirited ſociety, (could one be conſtituted for the purpoſe) than to encourage the planting of foreſt timber, and to improve the accommodation of our huſbandmen, who are juſtly to be accounted not the leaſt valuable part of the community.

NUMBER X.

PARISH OF MACHLIN.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM AULD.

Name, Situation, &c.

IN old deeds, the name of Machlein, or Machlene is uſed, but of late it is more commonly ſpelled Machlin. It is derived, as ſome imagine, from the Gaelic, and ſignifies in that language, a field of flax. It is ſituated in the preſbytery, ſynod, and county of Ayr. It is about 7¾ miles in length, and from 2 to 4 miles in breadth. It was a priory or cell, belonging to the Abbacy of Melroſe: and when that Abbacy was erected into a temporal lordſhip, the lands and barony of Kyleſmure, and Barmure, and the patronage of the church of Machlin, were given to the Lord of Loudoun. From the town or pariſh, the eldeſt ſon of that noble family takes his title to this day.

Surface and Soil.——The pariſh is in general flat, excepting Machlin-hill, which riſes a little to the north-eaſt of the town, and runs in a ridge, from eaſt to weſt, about a mile in the pariſh, terminating at Schioch-hill, in Tarbolton. From the hill there is a very extenſive proſpect, not only over a great

great part of Ayrſhire, but as far as Cairnſmure, and other hills in Galloway, and Benlomond, Jura, Arran, Kintyre, &c.——The town of Machlin is ſituated on the ſouth ſide of this riſing ground, which gradually declines towards the river Ayr, on the ſouth and ſouth-weſt. About 80 years ago, the town had a charter, which is now loſt, and with it, the right of chuſing magiſtrates. This is much to be regretted, as that privilege, if properly exerciſed, might contribute much to the public good, by checking riots and diſorders, which are at preſent too frequent, and promoting the good order, peace, and happineſs of the community.

The ſoil in the pariſh, is, for the moſt part, of a clayiſh nature, except ſome fields, about Machlin, which are of a light ſandy, or mixt kind. Hence, the ſame weather does not ſuit both; and, when there is a good crop on the one, there is a light or bad crop on the other.—The whole of this pariſh is arable, except two ſmall moſſes, and ſome declivities on the banks of the Ayr, fit for planting. A large tract of land, called Machlin-muir, has, of late years, been turned into arable land, and properly incloſed and ſurrounded with belts of planting, by the late Sir Thomas Miller. In general, all the lands or farms in the pariſh, within theſe 40 or 50 years, have been incloſed and ſubdivided.

Minerals, &c.——There is a good red ſtone quarry, near Machlin town; and another white ſtone quarry called *Deacon-bank*, about 3 miles to the north-weſt. This laſt is much eſteemed for its fine grain and colour. At Bridgend, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Machlin, there is a coal-work, with a fire engine. At Killoch, there is a lime-ſtone quarry and iron ſtone, both belonging to Miſs Scot. Lime-ſtone alſo at Auchmillan, belonging to Sir William Miller. In, and on the confines of Machlin pariſh, are various curious caves cut out of the ſolid rock,

rock, by the late Lord Auchenleck, and the late Preſident Miller.

Statiſtical Table of the Pariſh of Machlin, An. 1791.

Population, An. 1755, according to Dr. Webſter	1169
Number of inhabitants, in 1791	1800
Increaſe	631
Inhabitants in the town	1000
——— in the country	800
Males	870
Females	930
Parents	700
Children	829
Servants and lodgers	270
Births, at an average of 5 years, ending 1790	87
Marriages, at an average of 5 years, ending 1790	18
Deaths, at an average of 5 years, ending 1790	42
Number of acres	5400
Valued rent (in Scots money)	L. 5410
Real rent in 1750, in ſterling money	L. 1260
Real rent, An. 1790, in ſterling money	L. 3510
Clergyman	1
Writers or attornies	2
Surgeon	1
Student at the univerſity	1
Merchants	10
Weavers	20
Maſons	20
Wrights or carpenters	12
Tanners	2
Shoemakers	12
Taylors	10
Butchers	2

Hoſiers

Hoſiers - - - -	4
Sadler - - - -	1
Smiths - - -	6
Meſſengers, or king's bailiffs - - -	2
Sheriff officers - - - -	3
Farmers - - - -	73
Horſes employed by them - - -	240
Black cattle - - -	1080

Poor.—The poors ſtock in this pariſh, is between L. 80 and L. 100. The number of poor families, or weekly penſioners, is about 30. The income from collections, mort-cloths, and ſome ſeats in the church, L. 50. The annual expenditure L. 60 yearly, and ſome years more; but the difference is made up by an aſſeſſment, unanimouſly agreed to by the heritors, at a meeting in 1771; who, in order to prevent begging in the pariſh, aſſeſſed themſelves in a ſum, amounting to L. 22 : 10 : 10 *per annum*, one half of which, however, is payable by the tenants. This increaſed the poors ſtock at the time; but as the fund is gradually decreaſing, in conſequence of the number and neceſſities of the poor, unleſs a new aſſeſſment is made, it will not be poſſible for the ordinary income to ſupply the demands which are made upon it. It muſt be obvious to every body, that according to the preſent mode, the burden of maintaining the poor, is moſt unequally divided. It falls almoſt entirely on tenants, tradeſmen, ſervants, and charitable perſons attending the church; while other people, however rich, particularly non-reſiding heritors, whatever their income may be, contribute little or nothing to the charitable funds of the pariſh. Hence there is, in general, ample ground for the common obſervation, "that it is the poor in Scotland who maintain "the poor." It muſt be confeſſed at the ſame time, that, it is very difficult forming a plan that would provide for the poor, with-

out encouraging in them either inattention, indolence, or waſte.

It may be added, that for the relief of diſtreſſed brethren, there was a ſociety eſtabliſhed in this place about ten years ago, called *Machlin Friendly Society.* The preſent allowance is two ſhillings weekly to ſuch as are unable to work, and 3s to ſuch as are confined to bed. One guinea is paid at entry. The preſent ſtock is L. 300.

Character, &c.——In ſuch a number there muſt be ſome exceptions: but, in general, they are a ſober induſtrious people, charitably diſpoſed: Careful and even punctual in attending the church on Sundays, and on ſacramental occaſions; and their practice in the main is agreeable to their profeſſion. —The inhabitants are of a middle ſize, from 5 feet, 4 inches, to 6 feet, 2 inches, and make a decent appearance, particularly at public meetings. It is a great diſadvantage to them that no manufacture is carried on: But they are willing to encourage any plan that may tend to promote the improvement of agriculture, commerce, and manufacture; in all which they are making ſome progreſs.———The manner of living and dreſs, is much altered from what it was about 50 years ago. At that period, and for ſome time after, there were only two or three families in this pariſh, who made uſe of tea daily, now it is done by, at leaſt, one half of the pariſh, and almoſt the whole uſe it occaſionally. At that period, good two-penny, ſtrong-ale, and home-ſpirits were in vogue: but now even people in the middling and lower ſtations of life, deal much in foreign ſpirits, rum-punch, and wine. In former times, the gentlemen of the county entered into a reſolution to encourage the conſumption of their own grain, and, for that purpoſe, to drink no foreign ſpirits: But, in conſequence of the prevalence of ſmuggling, and the heavy taxes laid on home-made li-

quors, this patriotic reſolution was either forgotten or abandoned.—As to dreſs, about 50 years ago, there were few females who wore ſcarlet or ſilks. But now, nothing is more common, than ſilk caps and ſilk cloaks; and women, in a middling ſtation, are as fine as ladies of quality were formerly. The like change may be obſerved in the dreſs of the male ſex, though, perhaps, not in the ſame degree.

School and Language.——There is a public eſtabliſhed ſchool in this pariſh, with a ſalary of L. 10 yearly; and there are two private ſchools in the town, beſides ſome in the country. The Scots dialect is the language ſpoken, but is gradually improving, and approaching nearer to the Engliſh.

Climate, &c.—The air is milder and more temperate here, than towards the eaſtern coaſt of Scotland. It is rather wet, but not unhealthy.

There are no diſeaſes peculiar to this pariſh. Inoculation for the ſmall pox is practiſed with ſucceſs. As a means of better health, it were to be wiſhed, that the clothing, and houſes of the lower ſort, were more warm and comfortable. The contributing thereto would reflect great honour, and afford much real ſatisfaction to the more opulent.——The inhabitants of this pariſh, are in general, addicted to exerciſe and temperance, two great ſources of long life and good health. But death, againſt whom there is no defence, is ever ſnatching away ſome of all ranks and ages, the rich and the poor, the young and the healthy, as well as the old and the diſeaſed. The people, however, in general, are long-lived. Among other inſtances of longevity, the miniſters might be adduced. The late incumbent, Mr Maitland, held the charge of Machlin for 44 years; and the preſent incumbent was ordained about 50 years ago, to wit, in April 1742.

Church,

Church, Manſe, &c.——The manſe was built in 1730; and has ſince been ſeveral times repaired. The church, it is believed, was built before the Reformation. The ſtipend conſiſts partly of victual, and partly of money; and, including the glebe, which meaſures from 5 to 6 acres, may amount annually to about L. 100. The right of patronage is in the family of Loudoun.

At the town-head of Machlin, on the green, there is a tombſtone, with engravings; from which it appears, that in 1685, under the unhappy reign of James VII. of Scotland, five men were put to death there. Under their names, there are the following verſes in the language of thoſe times:

" Bloody Dumbarton, Douglaſs, and Dundee,
" Moved by the devil, and the Laird of Lee,
" Dragg'd theſe five men to death with gun and ſword,
" Not ſuffering them to pray, nor read God's word;
" Owning the work of God was all their crime;
" The eighty-five was a ſaint-killing time."

The hole where the gibbet was fixed is ſtill viſible.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.——There are two great turnpike roads which croſs one another at Machlin; one from Ayr to Edinburgh, the other from Kilmarnock to Dumfries. ——The river Ayr runs through this pariſh from eaſt to weſt about a mile ſouth of Machlin. In its courſe, there are ſeveral great works carried on at preſent; to wit, an iron work at Muirkirk, and a cotton-mill at Cattrine.——Over this river, there are ſeveral uſeful bridges near Machlin, particularly the new-bridge at Barſkimming; built by the late Sir Thomas Miller. It excels all the bridges of the county in beauty and elegance, and is one the greateſt curioſities to be

ſeen in it.——The river Ayr in its courſe, eſpecially through Machlin pariſh, paſſes between ſteep rocks, from 30 to 40 feet high. How this paſſage was formed, whether by art, or by the water gradually making a channel for itſelf, is a point which cannot now be aſcertained.——The only loch in the pariſh, called Loch-Brown, is about three miles north-weſt from Machlin. Wild-ducks, geeſe, and ſometimes ſwans reſort to it. It covers about 60 acres of ground; and would have been drained may years ago, had it not been for the ſake of two corn mills which it ſupplies with water.——There is no tradition of any battle in the pariſh, except one at Machlin muir, between the kings party and the Covenanters, about the year 1647, when the former was defeated; and their military cheſt was found, it is ſaid, many years after, hidden in the ground.——The antient parochial records of the pariſh are now loſt. Sometime before the Reformation, the Popiſh clergy perceived their intereſt declining, and their down-fall approaching in the kingdom, to prepare for the worſt, they ſold their lands for ready money, in ſmall parcels, and then departed, carrying with them all their money and effects, and all the books and regiſters belonging to this, and, it is believed, to other pariſhes in the neighbourhood.

NUMBER XI.

PARISH OF EAGLESHAM.

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

By the Rev. MR. ALEXANDER DOBIE.

Origin of the Name.

BEFORE the village was built, which gives its name to this pariſh, there were ſeveral woods in it, particularly one of great extent on the banks of the river, an Engliſh mile ſouth of the village. This wood, and the rocks in the neighbourhood, were much frequented by eagles; and as they often perched on the holm, or low ground, where afterwards the village was built, it was thence called Eagleſholm, or Eagleſham. Others derive the name from Eccleſia-holm, or, the church in the hollow.

Extent, Situation, and Surface.——The pariſh is about 5 miles from eaſt to weſt, and 6 miles from north to ſouth. It is bounded on the eaſt by Kilbride and Carmunnock, on the north by Mearns, on the weſt by Fenwick, and on the ſouth by Loudoun. It is ſituated in the county of Renfrew, the preſbytery of Glaſgow, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. The ſoil is various. The higher and weſtern part of the diſtrict conſiſts partly of dry heath, and partly of deep moſs, with

with a number of fine green hills, and a great deal of natural meadow-ground mixed together. The tenants in this part of the pariſh plow little: Their great dependance is on their ſheep, and the rearing of black cattle. The lower part of the pariſh lying along the banks of the Cart, and to the weſt of that river is a light ſoil, above a rotten whin-ſtone rock; and, when allowed to reſt for four years, it produces two excellent crops of corn, with a very ſlight manure of lime or dung. The tenants in that quarter plow only a fourth part of their arable ground; and oats is the principal grain they raiſe. Their great dependance is on the milk, butter, and cheeſe, which they ſell at Glaſgow. On this account, they keep few horſes, but a great number of cows, rather of the beſt than of the largeſt kind. In the beginning of winter, they feed them with oat-fodder; but in the latter end of winter, and till the paſture graſs ſprings up, with hay, and a little corn, once a day.

Climate and Diſeaſes.——The pariſh lies high, and enjoys a free air. In the mooriſh part of it, the air is exceedingly ſharp and cold, but in the lower part it is mild and temperate, eſpecially when the wind is from the weſt. The village of Eagleſham, which contains the one half of the whole inhabitants of the pariſh, is built on ground, that is full of, and ſurrounded by, ſprings; which renders the houſes damp, where pains are not taken to prevent it.——Conſumptions are not uncommon; but moſt of the deaths are occaſioned by fevers. The fine air, and the excellent water in the pariſh, make it, on the whole, exceedingly healthy: and thoſe who are at a ſmall expence in raiſing the floors of their houſes, and making drains, have very dry and comfortable dwellings. There are numerous inſtances in this pariſh, of perſons arriving at 80 years of age, and a many beyond it.——

The

The ſmall-pox carry off great numbers of children: but there is no reconciling the minds of the lower ranks to inoculation. In 1786, a few children were inoculated, and it ſeemed to give pain to the people in general, that they came ſo well and eaſily through. The thoughts of bringing trouble on their children, as they call it, with their own hands, outweigh every argument that can be advanced in its favour.

Rivers and Mineral Springs.—Several rivulets riſe out of the muirs of Eagleſham, and fall into the river Cart, on the eaſt ſide of the pariſh. This river takes its riſe out of the muirs of Kilbride and Eagleſham, about four miles ſouth of the village of Eagleſham; and in its courſe northwards, divides the counties of Lanerk and Renfrew, and this pariſh from Kilbride and Carmunnock.——There are two mineral ſprings in the pariſh; the one is of a purgative quality, and when uſed in the caſe of complaints in the ſtomach, gives immediate relief. The other is uſed as a remedy for the muir-ill in black cattle, and is carried to a great diſtance for that purpoſe.—— At Balegich-hill, two miles weſt of the village, there have been lately obſerved, ſeveral pieces of the barytes, or heavy ſtone. It is of a reddiſh colour, and laminated ſtructure; and is often the matrix of lead. This circumſtance, joined with other ſymptoms, render it probable, that there are ſilver and lead in that part of the pariſh.——There are alſo found large maſſes of the oſmund ſtone, which ſeems to be a volcanic production. It ſtands the ſtrongeſt heat without renting, for which reaſon it is uſed in building ovens and other furnaces.

Number of Proprietors, Farmers, and Inhabitants.—The Earl of Eglinton is patron and proprietor of the whole pariſh, except three ſmall farms in it. The valued rent is L. 3070:6:8,

and

and the real rent about L. 2700 ſterling. The Eglinton family do not reſide; but the other three heritors poſſeſs their own farms, on which they live comfortably. The number of tenants is greatly diminiſhed, within theſe twenty years, by the junction of farms. At preſent there are only 63, without including thoſe who take the parks adjacent to the village. The principal tenants pay L. 80, L. 90, and ſeveral above L. 100 yearly rent. The lands in general let at 16s or 20s per acre, but thoſe near the village at above 30s.——The number of people from ſix years old or upwards, is 700, and there are about 300 under that age. The return to Dr. Webſter of the population of Eagleſham, was 1103 ſouls, conſequently the decreaſe may be about 100. The baptiſms, including thoſe of the Seceders, are, at an average, about 25, the marriages about 9 or 10, but no regiſter of deaths has been kept.

Antiquities, Church, &c.—Upon the banks of the Cart, a few miles from its ſource, there is ſtill ſtanding a part of the walls of the caſtle of Punoon or Poinon.——Sir John Montgomerie of Eagleſham, at the battle of Otterburn, in 1388, took Henry Piercy (the famous Hotſpur) priſoner, with his own hand, and with the ranſom or *poind money*, built that caſtle, whence its name is derived.——Eagleſham is the moſt antient poſſeſſion of the Montgomeries, a family of more than ſix hundred years ſtanding. The church and village lie about a mile from this antient fabric. An old Popiſh chapel, a very diminutive place, was uſed for public worſhip, till within theſe two years; when Lord Eglinton, much to his honour, erected a moſt elegant church, of an octagonal form, and fitted it up in the beſt manner. The village of Eagleſham is allowed by every traveller who has ſeen it to be one of the moſt delightful places in Great Britain. Twenty years ago, it was wholly rebuilt on a new plan of the late Lord Eglinton's, a

nobleman

nobleman of the fineſt taſte. It conſiſts of two rows of houſes oppoſite to, and diſtant from each other thirty-two falls, (about 200 yards). Down the middle of that ſpace runs a ſmall rivulet, to which there is a gentle deſcent from each row. The village is two furlongs and thirty falls long; and the whole area on each ſide of the rivulet conſiſts of graſs, for the uſe of the inhabitants. There they may bleach their linen, &c. &c. but no cattle are allowed to graze or tread on it. A number of fine trees planted along both ſides of the rivulet, adds to the beauty of the ſcene. Towards the higher end of village, on the rivulet, a large cotton work is juſt now erecting.

Stipend, School, &c.—The ſtipend is L. 79 : 3 : 4 ſterling, and forty bolls of meal, with a glebe of 7¼ acres, Engliſh meaſure. The Manſe has been in ruins for a number of years; during which time, an excellent houſe has been hired for the miniſter's accommodation.

The encouragement for a ſchoolmaſter is better than in moſt country pariſhes. The ſalary is L. 100 Scots (L. 8 : 6 : 8 ſterling), and the number of ſcholars through the year may be rated at 60, or upwards. An excellent ſchool houſe, with accommodations for the maſter, is juſt now finiſhing: He has alſo a good garden, and the other common emoluments. The whole will amount to about L. 30 ſterling *per annum.*

Diviſion of the Inhabitants.——In the country part of the pariſh, the farmers themſelves, with their wives and children, do the farmer and dairy work, with very little additional aſſiſtance. In the 63 farms in the pariſh, there are not above 40 male, and 63 female ſervants, except in hay time and harveſt, when a few labourers and cottagers are hired occaſionally. The trades people live all in the village. A few years ago, there

were 63 silk looms at work there, but at present there are only 33, and these are mostly employed in weaving cotton of different fabrics; the materials of which are furnished by the Glasgow and Paisley manufacturers. There are 4 joiners, 2 smiths, 4 shoemakers, 5 taylors, 3 coopers, 8 day-labourers, 2 horse-dealers, 1 baker, 8 public house-keepers, (but only two of these have stabling for horses). These houses have here, as well as in other places, very bad effects. Surgeons, at different times, have attempted to settle at Eaglesham; but made no stay on account of wanting employment: And there are places, at no great distance, from which, when necessary, they are easily had.—The hire of women-servants for the half year, is from L. 1:15 to L. 2:5, and of men-servants, from L. 3:10 to L. 4:10. The hire of a day-labourer is 1s. in winter, and 15d. in summer.

There are a few Cameronians, 40 Antiburghers, who attend public worship at a meeting-house in the parish of Mearns. Besides the minister of the Established Church, there is one of the Burgher communion. About 60 of the parishioners are his hearers; the rest of his congregation come from the neighbouring parishes.

Morals, Poor, &c.——The people in general are very industrious: There are few in the parish in affluent circumstances, but they support themselves and families in a comfortable manner. At church, and other public occasions, they are clean and decent. No parish has fewer real poor. The charity-roll is seldom above 7; though there are some families that require a little assistance, if the funds could afford it. But the heritors and inhabitants are averse to any assessment, and there are no mortifications. The collections amount to about L. 16. sterling *per annum*.——The morals of the people are, according to the best information, stricter now than

than they were in former times. This may be partly attributed to the greater expence of living, and the advance of the rents; as labour and induſtry are among the beſt preventatives of vice. Public ordinances are regularly attended: and there has not been, in the memory of man, a ſingle inſtance of any perſon belonging to this pariſh, being either baniſhed or capitally condemned.

Horſes, Sheep, and Black Cattle.—Through moſt of the year, there are not above 120 horſes in the whole pariſh. The farmers begin to plow about the beginning of March; and a great many of them join, two and two, to make out a plough; which, in the language of the country, is called *marrowing*. Thoſe who have much plowing to execute, buy what horſes they want, at the beginning of the working ſeaſon, and ſell them again when the labour is over. The number of milch-cows is about 756. But beſides the horſes fit for labour, and the cows that give milk, there are many young horſes and cows reared, eſpecially in the mooriſh part of it. There are upwards of 4000 old ſheep in the pariſh, beſides a proportionable number of young ones.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—Between Eagleſham and Glaſgow (about 9 miles diſtance) there is a turnpike road, by which the farmers carry what they have to ſell, in carts or waggons. A turnpike road from Ayr to Edinburgh paſſes through this village, by Hamilton, which is ſhorter by ſix miles than by Glaſgow, and will be finiſhed this year. A turnpike is alſo propoſed to be made from Muirkirk, through this village, to Glaſgow. It may likewiſe be conſidered as an advantage which the villagers enjoy, that they have their houſes for nine hundred years, at no higher an annual than 3d ſterling a fall; and each houſe has a rood of ground for a garden. They have

beſides, among them, 100 acres of muir, for which they pay nothing; the greater part of which is capable of being improved into good arable ground.——The diſadvantages of this pariſh are, firſt, its diſtance from Glaſgow, which is its market-town. Another, is the expence of fuel; no good coal being nearer than 7 miles, and no peats within leſs than two miles and a half. But the greateſt diſadvantage is the want a good police. There is no magiſtrate nearer than within 4 miles; and the place is oppreſſed with gangs of gypſies, commonly called tinkers, or randy-beggars, becauſe there is nobody to take the ſmalleſt account of them.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.——Balagich, Dunwar, Mires, Blackwood, and Mellawher, are remarkable hills. The firſt two are nearly of the ſame height; and their ſummits are 1000 feet above the level of the ſea.——The inhabitants are under no ſervitude to the landlords; and in general pay nothing more than their money-rent, ceſs and road-money; ſome few excepted, who are bound by their leaſes, to perform one or two days work yearly to the landlord, which is ſeldom exacted.—The farms, in the lower part of the pariſh, are all incloſed, and great benefit is derived from it.

NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF NEWABBEY.

(STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM WRIGHT.

Name.

THE antient name of the pariſh was Kirkinnar, or Kirkindar, the former a corruption of the latter, which ſignifies in the Celtic, the church among the oaks. The preſent name is aſſumed from a famous abbey in the pariſh, which will hereafter be particularly mentioned.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.—This pariſh, lying in the ſtewartry of Kirkcudbright, within the bounds of the preſbytery and ſynod of Dumfries, is about 8 miles long, and 2½ broad, containing about 7810 Scots acres, whereof 2000 are arable, 500 meadow-merſe and low paſture, 250 in plantations, 60 in natural wood, ſuch as oak, aſh, birch, &c. and the remaining 5000 acres, are hill, and muir, and moſs. The face or general appearance of the pariſh is very different, the lower part, lying along the river Nith, being regularly incloſed and highly improved, commanding a noble proſpect of the Solway-Firth, and coaſt of England; while the upper diviſion conſiſts of rocky hills, moſſes, and muirs.

Air,

Air, Climate, and Diſeaſes.—The air in general is clear; but from the vicinity of the Atlantic, and the high hills which intercept the clouds and attract the vapours, this pariſh and the neighbourhood experience frequent ſtorms of wind, and heavy falls of rain; but the latter is ſoon abſorbed, and the vapours diſſipated, the ſoil in the lower diviſion lying on a ſandy or gravelly bottom, with many declivities. The froſt is very intenſe, and ſnow does not lie long upon the ground. The climate is remarkably healthy, inſomuch that invalids reſort to Newabbey in the ſummer ſeaſon for the benefit of the fine air, goat's whey, and ſea-bathing. There are no diſtempers that can be called local, only the rheumatiſm prevails much. The former virulence and ravages of the ſmall-pox are much abated in this and the neighbouring pariſh of Kirkgunzion, owing to the miniſters performing the operation of inoculation to a conſiderable extent, and with the greateſt ſucceſs, among their reſpective pariſhioners *.

Soil.—The ſoil in the lower diviſion of the pariſh is moſtly a light brown loam, which grows blackiſh in proportion as it is richly manured, and deepens by liming. The loam, from 6 to 10 inches in depth, lies on a fine dry gravel: ſome fields on the

* Here humanity ſuggeſts the remark, that if other miniſters would take the trouble to perform this very ſimple operation in their reſpective pariſhes, it would contribute to make the practice general; which will hardly be the caſe, while the common people conſider it as a chirurgical buſineſs, and find it attended with expence. It is to be believed, that a plan is now in agitation, for inſtructing the ſtudents of divinity at the Univerſity of Edinburgh in the art of inoculation, which the phyſicians of that city generouſly and humanely propoſe to do without putting them to any expence.

the ſhore are of a deep coarſe ſoil, on a dry bottom, and are very productive. In the upper diviſion, among the hills, the ſoil lies on a bed of wet, cold, tenacious till; and the harveſt is therefore later; but, when the ground is well manured, eſpecially in dry ſeaſons, it produces good crops, though inferior both in quantity and quality to the former.

Rivers and Lakes.—The river Nith waſhes the eaſt border of the pariſh for 2 miles, or thereby, and may be about that ſpace in breadth when the tide is in; the water riſing 15 or 16 feet in ſpring tides, and making frequent incroachments upon the ſhore; though there are evident proofs that the land has, on the whole, gained conſiderably. Veſſels of 60 or 70 tons burden come up a burn in the pariſh, called Newabbey-Pow, importing lime and ſhells for manure, and a few coals, and exporting oats, oat-meal, barley, potatoes, and charcoal for England and Greenock. There are three lakes in the pariſh; Lochkindar 1¼ mile long, and ¼ of a mile broad, abounding with trouts, and producing bull-ruſhes and reeds; the firſt gathered by chair-makers, and the laſt by the weavers. Lochend and Craigend lakes are each about ¾ of a mile long, and ½ a mile broad; they abound with pike, conſequently have few or no trout in them.

Mountains.—The S. and S. W. boundary of this pariſh is a chain of hills, beginning on the S. W. with Lowtis, and ending on the S. and S. E. with Criffell, both ſteep, high, and rocky eminences. Criffell, in particular, has a grand appearance, riſing about 2000 feet above the level of the ſea, from whence it is a mile diſtant. On the ſummit there is a perennial ſpring of very fine water; near which is a large heap of ſtones, called Douglaſs cairn, probably from Douglaſs, Earl of Morton, who, when he was Lord of the marches, had a caſtle called

Wreaths

Wreaths at the foot of this hill. The ſoil of Criffell is in general good green paſture, eſpecially on the N. and N. E. ſides. It is viſible at a great diſtance; and the country people who live within ſight of its ſummit are accuſtomed to conſult it as a ſure weather-glaſs.

State of Property.—Several people now living have ſeen the whole pariſh, (one moderate eſtate excepted) in other families than thoſe of the preſent heritors; ſome eſtates have had three different proprietors within the laſt 20 years, and $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pariſh have changed owners in that period. But this is not likely often to be the caſe in time-coming; and one of the beſt eſtates in the pariſh has been lately entailed. The heritors are 20 in number, but only one of any conſiderable property reſides.

Mode of Cultivation.—In the lower diviſion of the pariſh, a mode of cultivating the ground, introduced about 20 years ago, by Mr Craik of Ardbigland, has been found by experience to anſwer particularly well, eſpecially when the land is incloſed, and is as follows: Each farm is divided into nine parts; one diviſion of the oldeſt ley in the farm, is the firſt year limed with 50 or 60 Dumfries meaſures of unſlacked lime, each meaſure coſting 9d. or $9\frac{1}{2}$d. and containing about $2\frac{1}{8}$ Wincheſter buſhels: this diviſion is in ſpring ploughed up, and ſown with oats, at the rate of 8 or 9 Wincheſter buſhels to the acre. Next year a ſecond crop of oats is taken; the third crop muſt be a green crop, or open fallow; the former may be peaſe and beans, turnips, or potatoes, but the laſt is generally preferred, and they are planted in drills, from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet aſunder, and well dunged. The fourth crop is barley or wheat, with which 12 or 14 lb. of red clover, 2 Wincheſter buſhels of rye-graſs, and ſometimes 6 lb. of white clover-ſeed, muſt be

ſown on each acre. The fifth crop, and ſometimes the ſixth is cut for hay; and the field is afterwards uſed for paſture, till its turn of being broken up for oats in the tenth year returns; then it is limed with ſomewhat more than half the firſt quantity of lime, and the former rotation of crops is followed. By this mode of cultivation, a farm of 9 diviſions will thus lie in crop, year 1ſt and 2d oats, 3d potatoes, &c. 4th barley, or wheat, 5th hay, 6th hay or paſture, 7th, 8th, and 9th paſture. This courſe is pretty ſtrictly followed in the lower diviſion, conſiſting of about 1600 acres; and, it is kept in view, as much as the nature of the ſoil will admit, in the upper part of the pariſh, in which there may be 400 acres arable; 150 of which are uſually in oats and barley, and the remainder in hay or paſture.

Implements of Huſbandry.—About 52 ploughs are employed in agriculture, moſtly of the true Scots conſtruction, and a few of the Engliſh form. They are generally drawn by two horſes; but in ſtiff and ſteep ſoils, three horſes a-breaſt are yoked to each plough; in both caſes the ploughman drives the horſes. There are from 75 to 80 carts in the pariſh; a great number, in proportion to the ploughs, owing to an improvement lately introduced, of uſing light ſingle horſe-carts, in place of the large heavy double carts, which were formerly in uſe.

Seed-time and Harveſt.—Wheat is ſown from the 1ſt of October to the middle of November, and reaped from the middle of Auguſt to the 1ſt of September. Barley is ſown after the 10th of April, and reaped at the ſame time with the wheat. Oats ſown from the 1ſt of March, and reaped in September. Potatoes are planted in April and early in May, and dug up after the 1ſt of October.

Produce.——The produce of the arable land may be thus ſtated.

	Acres.	Produce.	Price.	Produce per acre.	Total produce.	Tot. value
Wheat	50	45 bl.	3s. 9d.	L.8 8 9	2,250 bl.	L.421
Oats	550	42 bl.	1 s 10d.	3 17 0	23,100 bl.	2117
Barley	160	45 bl.	2 s 4d.	5 5 0	7,200 bl.	840
Hay	300	150 ſt.	0 4d.	2 10 0	45,000 ſt.	750
Greencrops	210	150 cwt.	1 s.	7 10 0	31,500 cwt.	1575
Paſture	730			1 5 0		912
Total acres	2000		Aver. val. of pro. pr. acre	L.3 6	Tot. val. of the produce	6615

This produce not only abundantly ſupplies the pariſh, but affords ſales at home, and exportation abroad, to a conſiderable amount, particularly of wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes to England, and of wheat and oat-meal to Greenock. Importation of victual is extremely rare, or rather unknown here. Very few peaſe are raiſed, as they pay next to nothing in this ſoil and climate; and very little hemp and flax are ſown. The culture of turnips is almoſt wholly ſuperſeded by potatoes, which yield, if not a larger, yet a quicker return than the former, as there is a ſufficient demand for all that can be raiſed here; the greateſt part of which is exported to Briſtol, Liverpool, and ſometimes to Dublin. The price is from 12d. to 20d. per cwt. which brings good profit to the farmer. Under this head, it may be ſtated, that great abundance of capillaire, (vulgarly maiden hair) grows in the crevices of the decaying walls of Newabbey, and its precincts. This plant is much uſed in aſthmatic complaints, by drying it in the ſun, then infuſing it in water, and drinking it as tea; alſo by infuſing

fuſing it in its green ſtate in water, for a day or two, ſtraining the liquor, and boiling it up with ſugar-candy into a ſyrup for uſe. Good effects have been often experienced from the uſe of this plant, eſpecially when prepared as a ſyrup.

Rent.—The rent of the pariſh may be nearly L. 2000 for the land, L. 45 for the mill and fiſhings, and L. 55 for houſes and gardens, in all L. 2100. The general rent of the largeſt farms, is, from L.40 to L.70 a year, only two are above L.100, none above L. 150: Many perſons occupy ſmall portions of land of L. 10 rent and under; ſo that the land is very beneficially divided, none poſſeſſing too much, and numbers having a little.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.——The Dumfries market regulates the price of every article of proviſion here; only the oats and oat-meal of this pariſh are ſhipped for exportation, at a rate ſomething below that market price. A ſkilful able man-ſervant in the houſe earns yearly from L.7 to L. 8, beſides his victuals, which may be about L. 5 more;—a houſe woman-ſervant from L. 3 to L. 3: 10. A married man-ſervant, hired by the year, commonly called a benefit-man, has a houſe and yard, a cow kept, his potatoes ſet, his peats caſt and led, with ſo much meal, barley, and money, as may amount in the whole, to L. 12, L. 15, or even L. 16 a year; which, with his wife's induſtry, and that of the older children, keeps his family in the neceſſaries of life, and enables him to give his children a tolerable education. A day labourer earns 1s. a day, for nine months in the year, and 10d. a day for three months in the middle of winter; but, if the victuals are furniſhed by the employer, theſe wages are 4d. a day leſs. An able and ſkilful labourer, who takes jobs by the piece, ſuch as ditches, drains, and ſtone-dykes, will, by hard

labour, and extra hours, earn 15d. and even 18d. a day in ſummer. A woman working at hay, weeding, &c. earns 4d. a day, with victuals, or 7d. without them; at carrying peats, and reaping in the harveſt, 8d. in the former caſe, and 1s. in the latter, is the common wages for that ſex. Spinning yarn, or factory-yarn, as it is called, employs many women, eſpecially in winter and ſpring; but they make ſorry wages of it, not above 3d. per day;—which can afford very ſcanty food, when firing, and often houſe-rent, is ſuperadded. Taylors earn 6d. ſome few 8 d. a day, with victuals;—maſons charge 20d. and joiners 16d. a day, without victuals.

Benefit-men, mentioned above, are now much leſs employed than formerly, ſo that there are not above 3 now in the pariſh, as the farmers find their account in preferring houſe-ſervants, becauſe the latter are always at hand, under fewer temptations to diſhoneſty, and coſt L. 2 or L. 3 a year leſs than the other. Unleſs villages, however, are ſcattered up and down the country, where the farmer can find day or job labourers to execute his extra work at hay, peats, harveſt, &c either benefit-men, or ſupernumerary ſervants will be neceſſary, nor will it always be poſſible to procure them. Collecting people into villages, therefore, cannot be too much encouraged.

Fiſheries.—The fiſh in the river Nith at this place are ſalmon, flounders, and a few ſmall cod and whitings. The quantity of ſalmon caught is very triffling, and is far from recompenſing the time conſumed in that employment; ſo that now it is but little followed *. The flounders are found in great abundance, and

* The methods of catching the ſalmon in this pariſh are ſimilar to thoſe deſcribed in the ſtatiſtical account of Dornock, p. 15. excepting

and of the beſt quality, and are in ſeaſon from July to January. Lochkindar abounds with large and fine trout, (ſome few weighing 20 or 24 ounces;) and is much reſorted to by anglers from Dumfries, who reckon a dozen a good day's fiſhing, as the trouts are very ſhy.

Ale-houſes and Village.—There are only two ale-houſes in this pariſh, both in the village of Newabbey; through which a public road paſſes, and they are more frequented by ſtrangers than by the pariſhioners, whoſe morals are in no degree hurt by them. Newabbey is a pleaſant village of 50 houſes, adjoining to the ruins of the abbey that gives name to it; well ſupplied with fine water, and ſurrounded with beautiful woods.

Stipend, Church, &c.——The ſtipend, as augmented in 1771, is L. 83:6:8, and L. 3:6:8 more for communion elements. The glebe conſiſts of 10½ acres; 4 acres whereof lie within the precincts of the abbey, and the other 6½ are adjacent to the old parochial church, at Lochkindar, at a very inconvenient diſtance from the manſe: but both parcels are of an excellent ſoil, and worth, at leaſt, a guinea per acre. The preſent church, which is contiguous to the ruins of the abbey, was built in 1731. Some remains of the antient parochial church are ſtill to be ſeen in the iſland of Lochkindar.—— The Crown is patron.

Poor.—From the Seſſion records it appears, that the poor were much more numerous 40 years ago than they are at preſent

cepting that there is no *raiſe-net fiſhing*, and that the leiſter is only about 10 or 12 feet long, conſequently better calculated for throwing to any diſtance.

ſent, and that their numbers have been gradually decreaſing. The number of poor now on the roll, does not exceed 10 or 12; for whoſe relief the weekly collections amounting to L.9,—the rent of a ſmall farm purchaſed with a mortification, L.12,—and the intereſt of ſome late mortifications (L.150, at 4 *per cent.*) L. 6,—total L. 27 a year, are quite ſufficient. Not a ſingle pauper, in this pariſh, has left his houſe to beg, theſe 30 years; but vagrants and beggars from other pariſhes are often met with.

School.—There is a parochial ſchool, at which the number of ſcholars, has, for many years paſt, been, at an average, 50 at leaſt, the ſalary is L. 15, with a comfortable dwelling-houſe; the wages and perquiſites may amount to from L. 15 or L. 21 more. Beſides this, there are two little ſchools with trifling ſalaries, one at each extremity of the pariſh.

Population.——The population, on the whole, is rather on the increaſe. From 1730, to 1760, the yearly average of baptiſms, entered in the regiſter, is 15; from 1760, to 1770, 16; and, from 1770, to 1790, 18.

Though this and other circumſtances, *in particular, the great difference between the births and deaths*, the one being in proportion to the other as 25 to 11), fully prove an increaſed population; yet old people, when converſed with upon the ſubject, uniformly maintain a contrary idea, grounding their opinion, on the union of many ſmall farms into one, on the veſtiges of ploughed land, at preſent neglected, and the remnants of houſes and cottages, now in ruins. To theſe obſervations, however, the anſwer is eaſy. The ſervants, labourers, and cottagers required on a large farm, will equal the population on ſeveral ſmall ones. Much more barren land has been made

arable

arable, than of land formerly arable, now neglected; and though ſome houſes are in ruins, yet many more have been built new from the foundation. In regard to the preſent ſtate of the population of this diſtrict, or its amount at former periods, the following table contains all the information upon the ſubject that could poſſibly be collected.

Statiſtical Table of Newabbey, An. 1791.

Population in 1755, according to Dr. Webſter -	634
——— in 1769 - - -	596
——— in 1790 - - -	649
Males - - - -	318
Females - - - -	331
In the village of Newabbey - -	210
— the country - - -	439
Below 10 years of age - -	152
From 10 to 20 - - -	142
——— 20 to 50 - - -	227
——— 50 to 70 - - -	110
Above 70 - - - -	18
Yearly average of marriages for the laſt 10 years	5
——— of births regiſtered - -	18
——— of births ſuppoſed to be omitted in regiſter	7
——— of deaths - -	11
Bachelors above 20, including ſervants -	66
Married men, farmers, and farm-ſervants -	90
Widowers - - -	2
Average number of children produced by each marriage	5
Inhabited houſes and cottages - -	120
Seceders and M'Millanites - -	16 to 20

Relief

Relief congregation - - -	10 or 12
Roman Catholics, (familes 6,) individuals -	27
Farmers - - - -	54
Sub-tenants - - - - -	5
Heads of families, among the farmers and ſub-tenants	89
Their children - - - -	113
Their ſervants, male and female - -	91
Male-ſervants in families (of all ranks and employments)	40
Female, ditto - - -	63
Benefit-men - - - -	3
Day-labourers, men - - -	10
——————— women - -	12
Weavers - - - -	7
Smiths - - - -	1
Shop-keepers - - -	4
Shoe-makers - - - -	3
Tanners - - - - -	1
Coopers - - - -	1
Joiners - - - - -	6
Maſons - - - - -	8
Taylors - - - -	4
Cloggers - - - - -	1
Bakers - - - - -	1
Tinkers - - - - -	1
Ale-houſe-keepers - - -	2
Dry-ſtone-dykers - - -	7
Journeymen and apprentices to the different trades	15
Iriſhmen - - - - -	3 or 4
Iriſhwomen - - -	2

There has been little or no emigration from the pariſh, within the laſt 20 years, excepting a very few ill-adviſed people, both married and ſingle, who went to St. John's, in North

North America, and, in the iſſue, had abundant reaſon to repent leaving their native country.

Number of Cattle, &c.——The upper or hilly diviſion of the pariſh is applied chiefly to paſture for ſheep and black cattle; of the former there may be about 3500, and of the latter 1000. Theſe are of the true Galloway breed, were formerly of a ſmall ſize, but are much improved of late years, by paying greater attention to the ſize and ſhape both of the bulls and cows. The ſheep are of the ſhort ſmall kind, but improving in ſize. Their wool is not fine, nor are their fleeces large; they are ſalved or ſmeared with tar and butter; 8 fleeces, at an average, go to the ſtone of 24 lbs. avoirdupois, which has ſold, for 10 years paſt, from 4s. 6d. to 6s. The price of wool has been riſing for the 3 laſt years. The mutton, when fat, and kept to four years old, is exceedingly nice, of a rich red juice, and fine flavour, and may then weigh 10 or 11 lb. per quarter, and will yield from 4 to 6 lb. of 24 oz. of tallow. But the hills of this pariſh produce very little good, fat, and old mutton, ſince the farmer has found it more to his advantage to feed his ſheep better, and to ſell them young. The number of work-horſes is about 130, and of young horſes 30. They are greatly improved of late, by paying attention to their breed, and are very hardy, and fit for labour.

Minerals and Fuel.——Criffell affords plenty of granite; exceedingly fit for building, both in point of ſtrength and beauty. There are ſome appearances of coal in the lower end of the pariſh; and a ſlight trial to find it was made a few years ago, but without ſucceſs.——The fuel made uſe of is in general peat; but moſs is not plenty, and moſtly the property of one heritor; whoſe tenants alone have the liberty of making peats. All others who can procure that privilege, muſt pay

for it. The leading coſts the poor people dear; no leſs in return than a day's reaping in harveſt, equal to 8d. for each cartfull. Ten of theſe cartfulls ſuffice for a labourer's family, and that quantity may be caſt by one man in one day. Dry broom, furze, and branches of decayed fir-trees, aid the ſcanty quantity of peats to many, and wholly ſupply their place to ſome. A few families uſe a little coal, which is imported from England, at the price of about 4½d. per Wincheſter buſhel, or 1d. per ſtone avoirdupois. There is lime-ſtone in the pariſh, though in no great quantity; and, from the ſcarcity of fuel, no attempt has been made to burn it.

Antiquities.—The principal monument of antiquity in the pariſh, is a famous Ciſtertian abbey, founded by Devorgilla, daughter of Allan, Lord of Galloway, wife to John Baliol, Lord of Caſtle-Bernard, and mother of John Baliol, King of Scotland. It was firſt called the Abbey of Sweet-heart, from the circumſtance of her huſband's heart being embalmed, and incloſed in a box of ivory bound with ſilver, which was built into the walls of the church: but that name was afterwards changed into that of Newabbey. This ſtructure ſtands in the middle of a fine level field of about twenty acres, called the precinct, incloſed by a ſtone wall 8 or 10 feet high, built of granite ſtones of great ſize, ſome of them, even near the top of the wall, ſeem to be no leſs than a ton in weight. The abbey itſelf, which was erected towards the end of the twelfth century, is a beautiful and lofty building, of the light Gothic ſtile of architecture; its church is 194 feet long, 102 feet broad at the croſs, and 66 feet at the ends, with a tower upwards of 90 feet high. This place is frequently viſited by ſtrangers; and is particularly deſcribed by Groſe and Cardonnel, in their late publications on the antiquities of Scotland.

In Lochkindar there is an artificial mount of ſtones, riſing 6 or 7 feet above the ſurface of the water, ſuppoſed to have been conſtructed for the purpoſe of ſecuring the moſt valuable effects of the neighbouring families from the depredations of the borderers. The ſtones ſtand on a frame of large oaks, which is viſible when the weather is clear and calm. Sea-fowl breed here in ſummer.

Food of the People, &c.—The food of the poor, and of the labouring people is very indifferent in quality, though there is no deficiency in the quantity. Potatoes may here be fairly computed to conſtitute more than half the food of the lower claſs of inhabitants, for full three quarters of the year. Labourers and tradeſmens wives are generally frugal and induſtrious; their children thrive and grow up apace to be helpful to their parents, and uſeful to ſociety, and generally get a tolerable education for their ſtation in life.

Size and Character of the People, &c.—The inhabitants of Newabbey, are, in general, about the middle ſtature, of 5 feet 6 or 7 inches, healthy, active, and inured to labour. One young man, who lately removed from the pariſh, was of the height of 6 feet 7 inches, of a make and ſtrength proportional, and was remarkable for a quiet and peaceable temper. The genius and employment of the inhabitants turn to agriculture, in which they are very induſtrious and judicious. They are a ſober, obliging, honeſt and intelligent ſet of people, hoſpitable to ſtrangers, charitable to the poor, juſt in their dealings, and obliging to one another. They affect not elegance or expence in their dreſs or diet, but are cleanly and comfortable in both, and are truly a ſet of very worthy and reſpectable people. Very few incline to ſea, and fewer ſtill to the army. To the credit of the pariſh, it may be added, that not a

ſingle individual from it has been confined in jail, either on account of debt, or even the ſuſpicion of any criminal action, for theſe 20 years paſt.

Means by which their Situation might be meliorated.—— The means of bettering their ſituation ſeem to be chiefly theſe, 1. Taking high duty off Engliſh coals; as much time, labour, and expence are conſumed in cutting, winning, and carting peat, which operates as a great diſcouragement to manufactures and agriculture. 2. Purchaſing the multures, and relieving the farmer from ſo very heavy a tax on the produce of his fields. Moſt of the lands here pay $\frac{1}{11}$ of all the corn they grind, to the proprietor of the mill, beſides the miller's dues of manufacturing, and they alſo pay $\frac{1}{17}$ of all grain ſold. The particular hardſhip of this laſt tax is, that it extends to wheat, though the proprietor never has had a mill fit for grinding it. It is, however, but juſtice to the preſent proprietor, to obſerve, that an offer has lately been made to all the heritors of purchaſing their reſpective multures, at prices which do not ſeem to be unreaſonable.

NUMBER XIII.

PARISH OF NIELSTON.

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN MONTEATH.

Origin of the Name.

IT is generally ſuppoſed that the names of ſuch pariſhes, at leaſt in this part of the country, as end in the ſyllables *town* or *ton*, are derived from proper names.——Perhaps ſome perſon of diſtinction, of the name of Niel, had either fixed his reſidence here, or having fallen in battle near it, had a ſtone erected on his grave. Either circumſtance might occaſion the name of Niel's town, or Niel's ſtone, being given to this diſtrict *. The latter, however, ſeems to be the prevailing, but uncertain tradition.——There were, it is well known, four

* Nielſton was an antient poſſeſſion of the Crocs of that ilk, a family of great antiquity in this ſhire; and this diſtrict, with the lands of Crocſtoun and Darnly, came afterwards, by marriage, to a younger brother of the illuſtrious family of Stewart, of whom were deſcended the Stewarts, promiſcuouſly deſigned of Crocſtoun and Darnly, afterwards earls, and then dukes of Lennox.——See Crawfurd's hiſtory of Renfrewſhire.

four moor ſtones of conſiderable thickneſs, four feet and a half high, and placed four feet diſtant from each other, which many have ſuppoſed, with great probability, to have been the monument of Niel. Theſe ſtones were entirely demoliſhed about 30 years ago.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.—This pariſh is ſituated in the ſhire of Renfrew, preſbytery of Paiſley, and provincial ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. Its extent is very conſiderable. There was a map made of it many years ago, which, was lately inquired after, but without ſucceſs. The form of the pariſh is irregular, reaching about nine miles in length, from eaſt to weſt, and may be, on an average, three miles in breadth. Suppoſing the above extent were perfectly accurate, and allowing 503 Scots acres in an Engliſh ſquare mile, it contains, 13,570 acres.——In the lower parts of the pariſh, which is at the eaſt end, the ſoil is various, and all kinds of grain common to Scotland are cultivated to advantage. But to the weſt, the country gradually riſes, till it comes to a pretty high elevation. It is moſtly of a light mould, and though much of it be tilled, yet it appears better calculated for paſturage.——The Faraneze and Lochlibo-ſide hills, making one ridge, reaching from north-weſt to ſouth-weſt for ſeveral miles, are covered with green, and contain a number of arable farms; and, as the farm-houſes appear in a line along the ſteep aſcent *, they afford a beautiful proſpect to the

* The declivity in ſome of theſe farms is ſo conſiderable, that it has been a queſtion, whether they ought to be plowed. In ſome parts they get only one furrow taken, and ſlide back the plow to the part where they began, before they can take another. The ſoil alſo muſt be waſhed down the hill.

the traveller. On the farther parts of the lands of Lochlibo, the ſoil is more barren, the ſurface covered with bent and heath, and partly with deep moſs; which may, one day, be of great importance to the country, by furniſhing peats for fuel, when all the coal mines in the neighbourhood are exhauſted. Along this tract of country, the traveller is delighted with a very pleaſant and pictureſque landſcape. On nearly the ſame ſpot, may be ſeen towards the ſouth and weſt, the beautiful and fertile plain of Ayrſhire, waſhed by the firth of Clyde; Ilſa, a ſtupenduous rock, ſtanding alone, buffetted by the waves; Arran, with a number of other iſlands interſperſed, in a channel covered with ſhips; Carrick hills, and ſome mountains in Galloway towards the ſouth-eaſt, and the boundleſs expanſe of waters which joins the Atlantic ocean, towards the ſouth. Towards the north and eaſt, many of the moſt pleaſant, and romantic ſcenes in Scotland, preſent themſelves to the view; Lochlomond with ſeveral of her iſlands; Benlomond with his ſhoulders covered with ſnow, and his head enveloped with clouds; the plains of Renfrew and Lanerk; the city of Glaſgow, with her numerous and lofty ſpires; and the proſpect towards the eaſt, terminated by the mountains beyond the Forth. Several plantations of firs, larix, beeches, and other foreſt trees, have lately been made in the neighbourhood, which will greatly add to the beauty of the ſcene.——The craig of Nielſton, in the ſouth part of the pariſh is the higheſt in the diſtrict, and the only high hill which ſtands by itſelf, not forming a ridge or tract of the country. It is vulgarly called the Pad, from having in its appearance the form of a pillion. It is 820 feet above the flood mark, and yet is all green, and arable to the very top, though now only uſed for paſture.

Climate, &c.——From the deſcription already given of the extent

extent and ſurface of this pariſh, it is evident that the climate muſt vary in different parts. It is often milder at the eaſt end than in the centre, and milder there, than on the higher grounds towards the ſouth and weſt; hence the farmers can often plow on the one, when they cannot, on account of the froſt, on the other. During winter, the fields towards the eaſt are often black, when thoſe to the ſouth and weſt are covered with ſnow.

The original inhabitants, it is certain, were a healthy, robuſt, and induſtrious people, employed principally in agriculture. Many of them rather above the common ſize.——It was aſſerted by a late military gentleman of this neighbourhood *, who was well informed, accurate in his obſervations, and who had opportunity, during many years of his life, whilſt in his Majeſty's ſervice, to ſee the ſubjects of moſt of the different powers, and ſome of the fineſt troops in Europe, that John Stewart of Moyne, the proprietor of a ſmall eſtate in the hilly part of the pariſh, above the Craig of Nielſton, was for ſtature, ſtrength, exact proportion, and good looks, the completeſt figure of a man, he had ever ſeen †. What effects the luxury of modern times, and the ſedentary employment which are now ſo prevalent, have had, and will have upon the ſtrength and appearance of the people, may eaſily be conjectured.

Rivers and Lochs.——There is ſcarce a ſtream in this pariſh that deſerves the name of a river, though there are many rivulets, called, in the provincial dialect of the country, burns. One

* Captain Alexander Mure, of the family of Caldwell.

† Mr. Stewart died ſome years ago, and his property was purchaſed by the late Alexander Speirs of Elderſlie.

One of theſe, and the principal of them, is called Lavern-water, riſing in the high grounds in the ſouth part of Nielſton, and running north-eaſt through the diſtrict. Its ſtream is naturally ſmall; but within theſe few years, ſome companies concerned in the cotton-mill, the Faraneze print-field, and ſeveral bleachfields ſituated along its banks, not without ſome difficulty in ſettling with a number of heritors, in this and the neighbouring pariſh of Mearns, obtained a leaſe, with liberty to get the ſource of this water dammed up, with a breaſt-work of about 16 feet high. The ſprings above this being numerous, and the land level, a tract of country, of about a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth, called the *Long-Loch*, is overflowed, ſo that, during the greateſt drought in ſummer, by drawing the ſluice three inches, there is a plentiful ſupply of water to drive all the machinery in the public works erected, and ſtill erecting on this ſtream. This baſon, extending along part of the march between Nielſton and Mearns, was formerly a loch, though, it is believed, not ſo extenſive as at preſent, and had been drained many years ago by the ſurrounding proprietors, by which they obtained a conſiderable tract of coarſe hay and paſturage. Some trout from Lavern have lately been put into it, where, it is expected, they will thrive exceedingly. When the preſent leaſe expires, the above companies muſt make a new agreement with the proprietors *, who, no doubt, are by this time, fully appriſed of its increaſed value.

There is another loch in the weſt end of the pariſh, called

* It is ſaid, that at the laſt ſettlement, Archibald Speirs, Eſq, of Elderſlie, who is a very conſiderable, if not the greateſt proprietor of the adjacent lands, was very diſintereſted, wiſhing to encourage manufactures.

Lochlibo, covering 16 acres of land, abounding with pike and perch, ſurrounded with extenſive thriving plantations of pines, and almoſt every kind of foreſt trees; the property of William Mure, Eſq. of Caldwell, whoſe manſion-houſe and pleaſure grounds in the pariſh of Beith, are in the neighbourhood. From Lochlibo, iſſues, with an almoſt imperceptible motion, the water of Lugton, meandering through a large meadow of near 100 acres, and running weſtward through Ayr-ſhire. At its ſource, it is a ſmall rivulet, but before it reaches the plantations and pleaſure-grounds of Eglinton, it increaſes into a conſiderable and rapid current. It is ſaid, that, at a conſiderable expence, the waters of this loch might be brought eaſtward through Nielſton to join the Lavern, about two miles diſtance.——There are ſeveral other rivulets in this pariſh, which, from the vicinitude to the large manufacturing towns of Glaſgow and Paiſley, (the former being only nine miles diſtant), have become of great value to the proprietors; all of them having their banks occupied with extenſive bleachfields, which, in conſequence of the excellent ſprings in their neighbourhood, (the purity of whoſe water is very great,) and the plenty of coals in this, and the adjoining pariſh of Paiſley, carry on a moſt extenſive buſineſs in bleaching, but chiefly of light goods, as muſlins, cambricks, lawns, &c.

Woods and Plantations.——There are no natural woods of conſequence in this, nor in the three adjacent pariſhes on the ſouth and weſt, a want ſeverely felt by the inhabitants. There are, however, beſides the plantations round Lochlibo, juſt now mentioned, and ſome on the heights of Lochlibo-ſide *, a conſiderable

* The property of Robert Fulton, Eſq. of Heartfield.

conſiderable number of thriving plantations in this diſtrict, which may, in time, ſo far ſupply the above want. The moſt thriving appear to be thoſe on the ſides of Faraneze *; which may convince the neighbouring proprietors, whoſe lands are lower and better ſheltered, what may be done on their eſtates †.

Coals, and Lime-ſtone.—Coals have formerly been wrought along the banks of the Lavern, about the middle of this pariſh. There is juſt now a coal pit working at the weſt end of Lochlibo, with a ſteam engine upon it, the property of William Mure, Eſq. rented at L. 60 *per annum*. There are coals alſo at the eaſt end of the pariſh, on the lands of Mr Cuthbertſon of Lyon-Croſs; but, as the roads leading there are not made, and the ground is by nature a deep clay, he has only dug them for his own conſumption. Lime-ſtone is found in plenty in many parts of the pariſh; free-ſtone both at the eaſt and weſt ends, uſed for building houſes. Moor-ſtone alſo abounds, but there are no good quarries of it, the ſtones being ſo hard, that it is difficult to work them, or ſo brittle in their texture, that they moulder down with the weather. Hence, building in the centre of the pariſh is very expenſive ‡.

Quadrupeds, Birds, and Plants.—Theſe are ſuch as are

 common

* The property of A. Graham, Eſq.

† If a thriving larix be worth a guinea in the courſe of 20 years, it is worth a landholder's pains to calculate what an acre would produce!

‡ There is plenty of free-ſtone very near the village of Nielſton; but, being at the bottom of deep banks on the Lavern, it cannot be drawn up but at an enormous expence.

common in the weſt of Scotland. The migratory birds which appear in the ſpring, are in the following order of time; the lapwing, or green plover, the curlew, the ſtone-checker, vulgarly ſo called, and laſtly, the cuckow and ſwallow. In the end of autumn the wood-cock and fieldfare appear. In ſome ſtatiſtical accounts already publiſhed, the wood-lark is mentioned as migratory; but it is certain, that this delightful bird, which has been juſtly called the nightingale of Scotland, may be ſeen every month in the year in ſome of the woods in this country, and her plaintive notes heard during the greater part of the ſeaſon.———The plants are alſo ſuch as are common to the weſt part of the iſland. The mercurialis, anemone, primula, and hyacinthus, are the firſt that appear on the banks and in the glens.

Antiquities, Foſſils, &c.—The principal remnant of antiquity in the pariſh, is a Daniſh ſtone with curious carved works upon it, which, it is ſaid, once ſtood on the lands of Hawkhead, but is now a humble bridge ſtone over a ſmall rivulet betwixt theſe lands and Arthurlie. There are two tumuli, vulgarly called, cairns, on the top of the Faraneze hills, one of them in particular is of conſiderable bulk, and there is the foundation of a large dyke, or wall around it, ſtill diſcernable. A great quantity of ſtones have been led away from it, but nothing except a few ſmall bones, whether human or not was uncertain, have yet been diſcovered. Tradition reports that a battle was fought there. Several urns with bones in them, ſurrounded with ſquare free-ſtones, have been found in different parts of the pariſh: alſo ſome petrified ſhells, and ſtones with impreſſions of trees on them.——There are alſo two places, where, it is ſaid, chapels ſtood before the Reformation, one a mile above, and the other a mile below the church; but no veſtige of their walls now appear. The former

mer has a remarkably fine ſpring, iſſuing from a rock, near to the place where the chapel is ſuppoſed to have been ſituated.

Population.—There are difficulties in aſcertaining the number of people in this pariſh, not known in pariſhes more remote, and leſs populous or commercial. When it is conſidered, that there are two cotton mills erected, and two more erecting, one large printfield, and twelve bleachfields, the mode of preciſely aſcertaining the number of inhabitants for any given time beyond a few months, is but uncertain. At theſe fields, for example, there are a number of women not having families, nor reſiding in families, but in women-houſes, ſo called, erected on purpoſe near almoſt every field, where they lodge only during the working ſeaſon, repairing to the neighbouring towns during the winter months, and perhaps not returning again to the ſame fields. This migratory claſs, in number about 93, lodge at preſent in ſeven women-houſes, and are not included in the following liſt. If it be thought proper to add them, it is eaſily done, and the conſequences are obvious. They will add their amount to the number of ſouls in general, and to the article of females in particular, and overbalance the males, which would not otherwiſe be the caſe: they will alſo add their number to the article of thoſe above 15 years of age; and to that of ſervants; with this diſcrimination, that they are only employed in bleaching and drying goods.

The following liſt was taken up within theſe few months, and is compoſed of thoſe who have reſidence by property, by leaſes, or by ſerving from term to term in families, including the renters of houſes, as being a kind of leaſe-holders.

In

In January 1791, there were in the pariſh of Nielſton
480 families, containing
1187 males } In all 2330 ſouls
1143 females }
908 below 15 years of age
1372 from 15—70 years
50 above 70. Some of theſe above 90 years
144 ſervants employed in huſbandry, houſehold-work, &c.
69 Seceders *
1 Epiſcopal
1 Roman Catholic, a woman, wedded by one of our young men when in Ireland.

It appears from the roll of the poll-tax taken up by authority, ſome copies of which are ſtill preſerved in this ſhire, that in the year 1695, there were 263 families, ſo that there is now an increaſe of 217 families; and in the return made to Dr. Webſter, about 40 years ago, the number of ſouls in Nielſton, was 1274, ſo that now there is an increaſe of 1056 ſouls. Of the above 2330 ſouls, 439 live in the village of Barhead, and its neigbbourhood, at the eaſt end of the pariſh; 472 live in the village of Nielſton; and 141 live at Uplamoor, a village in the weſt end of the pariſh.

Abſtract

* Of theſe 69 Seceders, a great number are infants, or children. And as Seceſſion has not been very faſhionable of late, except in caſes of violent ſettlements, or where the pariſhioners have not room in the pariſh church, it is uncertain what mode of worſhip many of theſe young people may yet adopt.

Abſtract of Marriages, Baptiſms, and Burials.

Years.	Marriages.	Baptiſms.	Burials.
1779	17	58	—
1781	28	72	—
1783	19	69	40
1785	19	96	47
1788	15	91	40
1790	20	90	26
	118	476	153
Yearly aver. nearly	19	79	38

Previous to the year 1783, there is a great chaſm in the regiſtration of burials, and it is to be obſerved, that many bury out of the bounds of the pariſh, and the poor, who are exempted from the tax, are not regiſtered.

Number of Proprietors, Tenants, &c.——There are twenty heritors; but none of the greater proprietors reſide in the pariſh. There is but one reſident juſtice of the peace *; a circumſtance to be regretted in ſo extenſive a diſtrict, abounding in public works, and daily increaſing in population. There are no attorneys; but that want is abundantly compenſated by the vicinitude of Paiſley and Glaſgow. There are frequently two ſurgeons in the bounds.

The number of farmers at preſent is about 114. Many of them keep but one horſe, a number of their farms being ſmall, but in

* Gavin Ralſton, Eſq. of Ralſton.

in general, they keep two, or more horſes, and from 8 to 12, and ſome of them 20 black cattle. There are only four or five of them that have a flock of ſheep, if a hundred ſheep, the greateſt number any of them keep, is entitled to that appellation. Could the farmers in the higher grounds of this diſtrict maintain their cattle during the winter and ſpring months, without the aid of oat-ſtraw, it would be their intereſt to cultivate only graſs crops, potatoes, and turnip, with ſome flax for their reſpective families; but though they have many natural meadows in their poſſeſſion, yet the graſs obtained from them is coarſe, and the quantity too ſmall for that purpoſe. They make up much of their rents by rearing young cattle, and ſelling milk, which they drive in barrels on carts to Paiſley. And as this pariſh marches for a conſiderable tract of country with Dunlop, ſo famous for making cheeſe, the ſoil, and quality of the graſs, cannot be greatly different. They ſow from the middle of March to the end of April, and ſeldom reap ſooner than the end of September, with the exception of a few farms that may be more early. Conſiderable part of the crop has, of late years, been often in the fields at the end of October, in ſtooks and huts.

Rent of the Pariſh.——The valued rent of the pariſh is L 4823:6:8 Scots. The real rent is ſuppoſed to be about L. 4210 Sterling. But from this ſum conſiderable deductions muſt be made for what is commonly called public burdens, as ceſs, ſtipend, road-money, ſchool-maſter's ſalary, &c.

Some farms let from 15 to 25s.; and land in the immediate neighbourhood of the villages at L. 2, nay, ſome above that ſum; not that the land is worth that price, but people will do much, ſometimes, for convenience, at other times from neceſſity. Houſes in the village of Nielſton let at L. 1:10 to

L. 2 *per annum.* The building of a cotton-mill near the village, has, in ſome degree, raiſed their value.]

Extraordinary riſe of Rent.——The farm of Dubbs, the property of the Dowager Counteſs of Glaſgow, was let to the preſent tenant's father, as late as the year 1765, for L. 3 ſterling, in money, and 5 bolls of meal and oats. It was afterwards raiſed to L. 21 : 10, and 4 bolls of meal, and it now pays about L. 50 ſterling. The ſmall Barony of Auchinback, conſiſting of about 460 acres, let, at the beginning of this century, for about L. 100, converting grain at 15s. per boll, and is now raiſed to about L. 321.

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.——A common labourer, called a darkſman, with his ſpade, will earn 1s 6d. ſterling, per day;——very ordinary workmen, 1s 2d.——Farmers men-ſervants get L. 10 ſterling, *per annum*, if able bodied and active; women-ſervants L. 3 : 10 *per annum*, beſides being victualled and lodged. The prices of thoſe employed in the different departments at the public works vary. All of them are high. Engravers, &c. at printfields, 19s ſterling, per week.——If the prices of proviſions differ here from thoſe in the markets of Glaſgow and Paiſley, it is in their being higher; for the ſeller, when once on the road, if he thinks he can get a farthing more for his articles, at theſe towns, than in the country, will ſcarcely be prevailed upon to ſtop, although he ſhould find himſelf miſtaken, when he makes a trial at the end of his journey.

Manufactures—There are two cotton mills already erected in the pariſh, one called Dove-cot-hall, which is 76 feet long, 28 feet wide, and 3 ſtories high;—the other, named Gateſide, is 100 feet long, 31 wide, and 2 ſtories high; but it is pro-

poſed to turn the whole of the latter into lodgings for the work people, and to erect a new mill on a much larger ſcale.——— The number of workmen employed in both mills, is, as follows:

Males above	15 -	29
Females above	15 -	100
Males under	15 -	94
Females under	15 -	78
		301

Average of wages paid to the above work-people per month, L. 217, or, at the rate of L. 2821 *per annum.*

The Faraneze printfield pays L. 3,000 ſterling, *per annum*, of exciſe-duty. And their extra expence may amount to L. 2,000 yearly. The profit and loſs of the company are known only to themſelves.

The cotton mill of Stewart, Orr, and company, now erecting, is 127 feet long, 34 wide, and to be 5 ſtories high; and will probably add 500 people to this pariſh. They will labour, however, under the diſadvantage of not having a village in which to lodge their work-people, and muſt neceſſarily be put to great additional expence in buildings.

The cotton-mill of Cochran and Airſton, erecting fartheſt up the Lavern, as it is near the village of Nielſton, will have the advantage of the work-people reſiding there. This mill is 98 feet long, 34 wide, and is to be raiſed 5 ſtories. The place where the level is begun, for bringing the water, is, near the junction of the Lavern and of Coudon-Burn, about a quarter of a mile above the village, and about 266 feet above the level of the tide at Paiſley. There are great ſpeculations in the cotton buſineſs at preſent; and yet ſome, who pretend to ſee as far as

their

their neighbours, have averred, that the ſilk gauze trade, which has been on the decline for ſome years paſt, is reviving, and will ſoon rival and ſurpaſs the cotton; and, that the latter, may, in ſeven years time, be ſo low, that ſome people engaged in it may find the profits little enough to keep, and to pay the children, at the points of the ſpindles. Whilſt others contend, that the cotton trade is as yet only in its infancy.

There are 85 looms in the Barhead and houſes adjacent, 48 looms in the village of Nielſton, 9 in Uplamour-village, and there may be about 10 more in different parts of the pariſh; in all 152 looms, moſtly employed in working muſlin, and ſilk-gauze. A few in what is called country work, (linen, &c.) for private families.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—There is only one miniſter at preſent in this extenſive and populous diſtrict.——Archibald Speirs, Eſq. of Elderſlie is patron. On the laſt vacancy he very generouſly gave the free choice of a miniſter to the pariſhioners. —The ſtipend conſiſts of ſeven chaldrons of meal, and L.33 : 10 ſterling of money; a manſe built in 1766; a glebe which is not legal, as to the arable land, and has no paſture *.

* The glebe has this farther diſadvantage, that there are four feus upon it, a circumſtance which appears directly oppoſite to the deſign of the legiſlature in giving glebes to miniſters in landward pariſhes, which was to keep a horſe for riding, when doing pariſh-duty, and to do any neceſſary work for themſelves, with graſs for two cows alſo, for the benefit of their families. This practice of feuing glebes appears alſo expreſsly contrary to the ſtatute laws of Scotland. It is ſubmitted, therefore, to heritors and preſbyteries, whether, by permitting feus on glebes in large landward pariſhes, they do not thereby cut off the incumbents from keeping

The church was built in 1762; and it is believed will hold about 1000 people. It is ornamented with a neat ſpire and a clock.——About two years ago, a number of heads of families who had little, and ſome of them no room in the church, offered the heritors the ſum of L. 80, for adding to, or enlarging an aiſle in it, upon the ſingle condition that the ſeats of this addition ſhould be annually let, by public roup, to pariſhioners only, and the money ariſing from them given to the poor. But the heritors did not chuſe to accept of this offer. Had this plan taken place, it is the opinion of many, that it would not only have been a conſiderable accommodation to the pariſhioners, but would have made ſuch an addition to the poors funds, as would have prevented the neceſſity of an aſſeſſment for maintaining the poor for many years, which otherwiſe may become indiſpenſable.

The ſchool-houſe was built large, and commodious, laſt year, with a dwelling-houſe in the upper ſtory for the teacher. The heritors alſo gave an area before the ſchool-houſe, for the benefit of the children, and a garden to the ſchool-maſter behind. The ſalary is L. 8:6:8. He may have between 60 and 70 ſcholars;—wages per quarter for Latin 3s, arithmetic 2s 6d. writing 2s, Engliſh 1s 6d.—alſo 3d. in the winter, and

keeping a horſe, and conſequently deprive them of the means of viſiting their pariſhioners, and even the ſick, ſo frequently and regularly as otherwiſe they would have done, and would all, it is hoped, wiſh to do, when called to that important duty, at leaſt, as much as their time, ſtrength, and perſonal ſafety will permit. To remedy this inconvenience, by the miniſter's taking a farm, is a plan, in the preſent ſtate of this country, inexpedient, and almoſt impracticable. To ſeek redreſs by a proceſs of reduction, is attended with certain expence, and often with much odium.

and 1½d during the ſummer quarter, from each ſcholar for fire money. In moſt pariſhes, 6 hours attendance from the ſcholars, during the longer days, and five during the ſhorter days of the year, are required. By keeping evening ſchools for arithmetic, church-muſic, &c. every ſchool-maſter, eſpecially in large landward pariſhes, may greatly increaſe his emoluments.

Seſſion Clerkſhip.—This office has L. 1 ſterling ſalary paid out of the public money, 1s 6d for regiſtration of marriages, 6d. for baptiſms, 3d. on a certificate of moral character to a ſingle perſon, though, it is believed, a certificate for a whole family has been charged 6d. There is alſo ſome ſmall *per centage*, for collecting the king's duty of 3d. on marriages, baptiſms, and burials; but this, inſtead of being an advantage to the office, has, in moſt pariſhes, it is believed, proved a troubleſome and vexatious employment, and very diſagreeable to the people at large. The regulations in the act are not calculated to extend to Scotland. In ſome parts it is difficult to underſtand its import. It is clogged with a qualification on the part of the collector, the expence of which, in many pariſhes, may require more than all the profits he can make. Many people are deterred by the expence, triffling as it is, from regiſtering; and the duty can ſcarcely bring in L. 1 ſterling from each of the 950 pariſhes in North Britain, a ſum altogether inconſiderable; and, when the expence of collecting is deducted, it muſt be very contemptible indeed. This is a ſubject not unworthy the attention of perſons in power, by whom alone the inconveniencies attending this act can be remedied.—In many pariſhes the church-ſeſſion beſtows the clerkſhip on the pariſh ſchool-maſter, ſome *in vitam aut culpam*; others, for reaſons that have been found very expedient, confer this office only for a limited time, or, during thepleaſure of the court.

This

This laſt mode will probably become the general practice in Scotland. In this very pariſh, the office of ſchool-maſter, during the former maſter's time, was held only during the pleaſure of the majority of the heritors.

Private Schools.—There are generally two private ſchools, one in the eaſt end, and the other in the weſt end of the pariſh; where the ſchool-maſters depend entirely on the number and wages of their ſcholars, which are always in proportion to their diligence and ſucceſs in teaching.

Inns and Alehouſes.—There are not leſs than *nineteen* inns, or ale-houſes in this pariſh, and no fewer than eight of theſe in the village of Nielſton. Houſes of that deſcription can be of no benefit to the public, but in two reſpects, 1ſt, to accommodate public meetings, or private companies on neceſſary buſineſs; or 2dly, to entertain travellers by day, and to lodge them and their horſes, when overtaken by night. This laſt, and not the leaſt uſeful public benefit reſulting from inns, perhaps not four of the nineteen are equal to. A queſtion then ariſes, are the whole of the remaining fifteen neceſſary, or what proportion of them is requiſite for the public good? The reader muſt have already anticipated the anſwer that ſhould be given.

State of the Poor.—During the laſt quarter of the year 1786, the number of perſons on the poors roll, amounted to 30, and, in the ſame quarter of the year 1790, to 34. Some of theſe are children; ſome aged; one of them fatuous. They are ſupported by the collections at the church door, which, at an average, ſeldom exceed 20s weekly; and the intereſt of a ſmall capital, amounting to about L. 140 ſterling, which is the whole fund belonging to the pariſh; together with 1s 6d. paid

on

on proclamations for marriages, and a ſimilar ſum for mort-cloths at funerals.

Amount of Collections and Diſburſements in the Years 1786, *and* 1790.

In 1786.

Collections - - -	L. 52	12	9¼
Proclamations - -	1	14	0
Mort-cloths, and bell-money - -	5	1	0
Intereſt of money - - -	7	19	6
	L. 67	7	3¼
Diſburſements to the poor -	L. 64	9	6

In 1790.

Collections - - -	L. 53	10	5½
Proclamations, ſome offerings to the poor included * - - -	2	3	0
Mort-cloths and bell-money - -	3	0	0
Intereſt, and part of the principal uplifted	5	11	9
	L. 64	5	2½
Diſtributions to the poor - -	L. 73	1	4
Deficiency this year - -	L. 8	16	1½

In this year, there was a donation, from one of the non-reſiding heritors, of two guineas.

The

* Offerings from about 5 to 10s. ſterling are given by delinquents to the poor, and are accepted of as evidencies of their contrition,

The heritors are called once every year to audit, and paſs the Seſſion's accounts, and examine the ſecurities for the money lent. At theſe meetings it has been recommended to them, eſpecially to the non-reſiding heritors, to prevent farther encroachments upon the capital of the pariſh funds, by their making up any annual deficiency, (which hitherto has been but trifling,) according to their reſpective valuations; or, by ſending a voluntary donation yearly to the poor, in ſome kind of proportion to their reſpective properties; and, to continue this mode, without aſſeſſing the people, while they continue to give liberally. Aſſeſſments indeed, never fail to counteract charity; and were the people to be once aſſeſſed, they would probably with-hold their collections altogether. It does not appear, however, with the exception of about two heritors, that this repreſentation has hitherto produced any effect. In this pariſh, the non-reſiding heritors, probably hold three fourths of the ſurface, and may, perhaps draw, the ſame proportion, of the whole rent. It is ſaid, that in ſome parts of Scotland, there are inſtances of non-reſiding heritors receiving almoſt the whole rents of ſeveral pariſhes, and yet, in ſome of them, that they have never contributed a farthing to the ſupport of the poor. Equity, juſtice, humanity, common ſenſe itſelf, lift up their united voice, againſt ſo diſgraceful a circumſtance, if true; nor is it any wonder, that in ſuch diſtricts, the diſcerning part of the inhabitants look forward with pleaſure to a coming day, when this "with-holding more than is meet," nay, withholding every thing, may be counteracted, and when thoſe in the middle and inferior ranks of life, ſhall no longer have the ſole burden impoſed upon them.

At

contrition, before they are abſolved from the ſcandal of any cenſurable offence.

At preſent, it may be obſerved, that the burden of maintaining 34 poor people falls upon the reſiding inhabitants in this pariſh; and, that the collecting, taking care of, and diſtributing among them the ſcanty pittance they receive, lies, (with the inſpection, and concurrence of the miniſter) upon ſix elders; a claſs of men, who, in the different pariſhes of Scotland, have, for theſe two centuries paſt, ſaved the landed intereſt a ſum, which may, perhaps, ſeem ſmall, if compared with what has been expended, in maintaining an equal number of poor in a neighbouring kingdom, but which would have been conſiderably felt, had it been exacted; and, if a trifling ſalary of L. 1 or L. 2 ſterling to a treaſurer, which is only the caſe in ſome pariſhes, be excepted, the whole is managed without a farthing of expence; an inſtance of frugality in an extenſive and public management, it is preſumed, not parallelled in Europe, and exhibiting at once, in theſe days of venality, a ſtriking and ſingular example of public ſpirit, and Chriſtian charity. But this uſeful body of men appear to be on the decline, as to number, at leaſt in the weſt of Scotland. Few people chuſe to accept an office, which not only has not the ſmalleſt emolument annexed to it, but, as far as connected with the management of the poor, is a thankleſs and troubleſome buſineſs. The reſpective ſeſſions (veſtries), in this part of Scotland, are alſo in general very ill accommodated, and deſtitute even of common convenience for managing the public buſineſs; few country pariſhes have a ſeſſion-houſe; and the elder, when collecting the offering, in many places, has not ſo much as a ſhade, to ſcreen him from the ſevereſt tempeſt. Their attachment alſo to the Eſtabliſhed Church has, in many places, been greatly weakened by cauſes well known, and now long experienced in the weſtern diſtricts, where with a ſpirit of commerce, a high ſenſe both of civil and religious liberty now prevails. What the reſult of this may be, time will diſ-

cover; but one conſequence is evident, that the care of the poor can hardly continue long on its preſent footing, and muſt of courſe devolve on the heritors, and pariſhioners at large.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The general lightneſs of the ſoil, and the elevation of great part of the diſtrict, are not favourable to agriculture; but, from the vicinity to large towns, there is a ready market for the productions of the farm, and often at very high prices. Oatmeal, however, is to be excepted, which, on an average, has not been ſold above 1s. per peck theſe twenty years paſt *. In regard to manufactures there are many advantages, in particular, the great command of water, and the abundance of fuel. With theſe natural advantages, provided ſobriety and induſtry can alſo be maintained, the greateſt ends may be accompliſhed; and they will probably be the means of raiſing the ſhire of Renfrew in general, and this diſtrict of it in particular, to a degree of commercial conſequence and wealth, which ſome years ago could not have been expected.

Conſiderable diſadvantages, however, are likely to follow the rapid increaſe of manufactures, which are already beginning to out-rival agriculture, the baſis and ſupport of all other arts. ——Farmers now complain that their ſervants deſert them, and engage in manufactures, where they receive higher wages, and have leſs laborious employment. But it is not an extraordinary riſe of wages, that will ſecure either induſtry, or economy;

* This, if in favour of the manufacturer, is againſt the farmer, who alledges, that, as all wages have doubled within theſe 20 years, that all ſhould pay a reaſonable and proportionable riſe on this, as well as on other commodities, and on labour itſelf.

economy; in moſt caſes it produces the contrary effect. It is well known in many of the manufacturing diſtricts, that when wages are high, many of the operative tradeſmen are idle, at leaſt three days in the week. It is alſo notorious, that many of them, who earn, by conſtant induſtry, about 7s. per week, often bring up creditable families, without contracting debt, giving their children wholeſome food, decent clothes, and ordinary ſchool education; while others, who gain almoſt thrice that ſum, have ſcarcely common credit. The reaſons are obvious; when the wholeſome viands of our own country are deſpiſed, and even the firſt meal of the day cannot be taken, but of commodities brought from two of the moſt diſtant parts of the globe, and every ſubſequent repaſt is proportionally expenſive, large debts, and an incapacity to pay them, are the neceſſary conſequences. How ſoon ſuch luxurious habits may operate to the deſtruction of commerce itſelf, cannot be determined: But ſurely a German, or Ruſſian manufacturer, who can content himſelf with ſimple fare, may bring his goods to the different market towns of Europe, and tranſport them even beyond the Atlantic, at a much cheaper rate, than where ſuch modes of living are practiſed. The obſervation alſo of a late judicious philoſopher * is daily verified, that, in every country through which he had travelled, where manufactures flouriſhed, he obſerved that beggars abounded; and ſhould poors rates, from this cauſe, become neceſſary, and univerſal in this country, this will be a very evident diſadvantage. It is alſo apprehended, that the rapid increaſe of manufactures, is neither friendly to the health, nor morals of the people.——In cotton mills a multitude of children are em-

* Doctor Franklin.

ployed, before they receive even common education. They there ſpend, perhaps, a conſiderable part of their life, without any other principles for the direction of their conduct, but thoſe which natural conſcience dictates. The lower ranks of mankind, however, when collected, and confined together, are too apt to corrupt one other; and, when aſſembled in ſuch promiſcuous crowds, are probably often expoſed not to the beſt example. It is to be feared alſo, that a total ignorance of Chriſtianity, which, even among the loweſt of the people, was leſs the characteriſtic of this country, than any of the neighbouring kingdoms, will ſoon become prevalent; and, if one ignorant race once ariſe, it is probable that not only the next, but many ſucceeding ones, of the ſame deſcription, will follow *. The children, too, in theſe works, confined, as it were, to the very point of a ſpindle, muſt of courſe have narrow ideas and contracted minds. The finer parts of the cotton, alſo, in the progreſs of the work, flying off continually by friction, fills the atmoſphere in which they breathe, with unwholeſome particles, and it is probably from this cauſe, that their appearance in general is ſo pale and ſickly. Nor ought it to be omitted, that the oil on the different parts of the machinery, coming often in contact with their clothes and bodies, occaſions an effluvium, which, to any perſon accuſtomed to the open fields, or to a well-aired apartment, is ſenſibly felt, even when paſſing along the road.

In a military view, the loſs that the public muſt ſuſtain, ſhould ſuch receptacles be its principal reſource for recruits, need

* It has been recommended to the proprietors of theſe public works, not to take in children, till they had received ſome education, and even after receiving them, to have a ſchool-maſter to teach them ſome part of the day. The firſt has been diſregarded, the latter only partially obſerved.

need hardly be dwelt upon; and the whole ſyſtem is evidently contrary to the axiom, ſo ably inculcated by a great political author *, "that the ſtrength of a country does not ſo much "depend on the comparative number of its inhabitants, as on "their being equally ſpread along its ſurface, and exerciſed "in healthful induſtry."

Notwithſtanding theſe diſadvantages, it appears, at preſent, to be the wiſh of the landholders, in the weſtern diſtricts of Scotland, to give every poſſible encouragement to all kinds of manufactures †; nay, ſuch is the rage for them in this pariſh, that corn mills are deſpiſed, or forgotton, even by their proprietors. Two have been allowed to go into total diſrepair; one of theſe has been advertiſed for a cotton-work; and a third, though in good repair, has been actually ſuperſeded, and is now an appendage to a cotton-mill; ſo that there are at this time, only two corn mills in the whole diſtrict, to the no ſmall inconvenience of the farmers.

As matters now ſtand, every good citizen will have it at heart to prevent, as far as his influence and example will go, the diſadvantages that may follow; and above all, the evils that may be dreaded from a relaxation in the morals of the people, which were formerly ſo pure, and unexceptionable, in this diſtrict that not above one or two acts, at the utmoſt, of unnatural or barbarous violence, are ever remembered to have taken place in the pariſh of Nielſton.

NUMBER

* Rouſſeau, Emil. vol. III.

† Bleachfields have alſo their diſadvantages; the work people upon them are expoſed much to wetneſs, and cold, which in the high parts of the country is often intenſe, and is apt to lead to the too frequent uſe of ſpirituous liquors. Not a few employed at them, come and go without certificates of their moral character.

NUMBER XIV.

PARISH OF RENFREW.

(COUNTY OF RENFREW.)

By the Rev. MR. THOMAS BURNS.

Town of Renfrew.

RENFREW is one of the royal burghs of Scotland, and head town of the county. It ſtands 3 miles north of Paiſley, and 5 miles Weſt of Glaſgow. The high-way from Glaſgow to Greenock runs through it. Some think that Renfrew is the *Randuara* mentioned by Ptolomy. Be that as it may, it is certainly of great antiquity, for mention is made of it in the chartularies of Dumfermline and Paiſley. An. 1164, in the Reign of Malcolm IV. a battle was fought near the town, between Sumerled, Thane of Argyle, and Gilchriſt, Earl of Angus, in which Sumerled was put to flight. The name of the diſtrict is probably derived from the Gaelic. The name by which it is known, in that language, *Rein-froach*, ſignifies *the heath diviſion.* It is not at all improbable, that, in former times, the country around the burgh, was intitled to that appellation; for many people, ſtill alive, remember when a great part of the ground to the ſouth of the town, was uninclоſed, and quite covered with heath.

It was erected into a royalty by King Robert. From that

prince a charter was obtained, confirming all the privileges granted by himſelf or his predeceſſors. Other charters were given by James VI. of Scotland, and by Queen Anne. The town formerly ſent a repreſentative to the Scots parliament; but, ſince the Union, it forms only part of a diſtrict; and in conjunction with Glaſgow, Dumbarton, and Rutherglen, elects a member of the Britiſh legiſlature.

The town is about half a mile in length, but in ſome places ſo narrow, that it is with great difficulty two carriages can paſs each other.——There are ſome ſmall ſtreets and lanes in it, beſides the principal ſtreet.

It is governed by a provoſt, 2 baillies, and 16 counſellors. The revenue amounts to about L. 360 *per annum*, and conſiſts of rents from lands, fiſhings, cuſtoms, a public ferry boat over the river Clyde, &c. Its right to a ſalmon fiſhery on the Clyde extends from Scotſtoun to Kelly bridge, and yields an income of L. 75 *per annum*. The ferry was formery between the King's-Inch and Blawert-hill, but is now removed about a quarter of a mile farther down the river. The place is broader, and much more expoſed to the weather, than where it formerly was: But theſe objections are compenſated by other advantages.——There is now a ferry-houſe on each ſide of the river, the property of the town, and a moſt complete ferry-boat, built by ſubſcription, purpoſely for carriages; in which, by means of a rope, fixed upon each ſide of the river, and running upon 4 rollers, two at each end of the boat, one placed in a horizontal direction, and the other perpendicular, any carriage, with a pair of horſes, can be eaſily boated, and carried over by one man in five minutes. It is believed, that the revenue of this town, will, in a few years, be conſiderably encreaſed, by the change in the ferry, and this eaſy mode of conveyance.

There are a good many ſalmon at times caught in the river, though

though not near ſo many as formerly. Two cauſes may be aſſigned for this: The one is, the deepening of the river, when the fiſh were diſturbed in their courſe for ſo many years;—the other is, the the public works which are now carried on in the neighbourhood upon the river.

Manufactures, &c.—The commerce of this town is very inconſiderable, though, in regard to local ſituation, it is not inferior to any place in the neighbourhood. Indeed had it not been for the fatal effects of borough-politics, it might, at this time, have been one of the principal ſeats of manufactures in the weſt of Scotland. There is a ſoap and candle work, carried on here, upon a pretty large ſcale; which, though lately erected, is of conſiderable advantage to the place. There is alſo a ſmall branch of the thread manufacture. Four mills are employed for this purpoſe; and each machine for twining the thread, is ſuppoſed to require, on an average, 36 perſons. There is alſo a ſmall bleachfield at the eaſt end of the town, which employs about 6 men, and 24 women. The wages of the men are from 7s. 6d. to 12s per week; and thoſe of the women from 2s 6d. to 6s. a week. The number of looms in the town, is. from 117 to 120, partly for ſilk, but principally for muſlin, chiefly on account of the manufacturers of Paiſley. Theſeare the only branches of trade carried on here, and all of them are of ſhort ſtanding.

Climate, &c.—No place, perhaps, in the weſt of Scotland, is ſo peculiarly healthy as Renfrew. Epidemical diſtempers are ever hardly known. Two reaſons may be aſſigned for this. The one is, that the town ſtands upon a bed of ſand, of great depth, ſo that all the heavy rains, which fall here, are ſoon abſorbed; and conſequently, dangerous damps, and unwholeſome fogs are hardly ever felt. The other reaſon is the good-

neſs

neſs of the water, which is ſuperior in quality to moſt places, perhaps, in Scotland.——There are many inſtances of longevity to be met with. Several perſons now living in the pariſh are above 80, and ſome above 90.——The ſmall-pox has been very fatal to the young, for theſe two years paſt: Yet there ſtill continues a backwardneſs among the lower claſs of people, to inoculation, partly owing to the expence attending it, and partly to prejudice. The operation is ſo ſimple, that many of late, however, have not only been perſuaded of its advantage, but have actually inoculated their own children.

Schools.—There is no parochial ſchool in this pariſh, though there is great need of one. One is kept in the ſeſſion-houſe, though another place for it would be more deſirable.—— The ſalary of this ſchool-maſter ariſes from the ſuppreſſion of an antient hoſpital, "the hail rents and pertinents of "which are diſponed to the burgh, for the ſupport of the "grammar ſchool; and the ſame to be called the grammar "ſchool of Renfrew, in all time coming." The provoſt, baillies, and council are the patrons.—There is abundance of employment here for two ſchool-maſters; and many families in Renfrew feel the want, and earneſtly wiſh a ſecond.—— To the credit of the people in general, it may be remarked, that not only tradeſmen, but even day-labourers, give their children a good education. Scarce a boy who is not taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, a little church muſic, &c. And ſhould any of them be neglected in their youth, when they come to the years of diſcretion, they go to ſchool, at their own expence, in order to acquire theſe branches. This is an important advantage which the Scots, as a nation, enjoy over the natives of other countries.

Situation and Extent, &c.——The pariſh is ſituated in the

preſbytery of Paiſley, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. Its extent varies from 3 to 4 miles in length and breadth, but its figure is very irregular, being frequently interſected by the rivers in the neighbourhood, and by the abbey pariſh of Paiſley. All kinds of ſoil are to be found in it. Some part of it conſiſts of a light kind of ſand; which, without conſtant attention or manure, would ſoon return to its natural ſtate. Some is rather inclined to a kind of till. A great part of it is a ſtrong clay, but a ſtill greater part is a deep rich loam. In general, however, the whole of the pariſh is good ground, capable of yielding excellent crops, of the different ſorts of grain, uſually cultivated in Scotland.——There is very little moſs; and not many acres in planting.

In the courſe of the laſt century, the town of Renfrew ſtood upon the banks of the river Clyde, and veſſels of conſiderable burden were built cloſe to the town. But the river left its uſual courſe, nearly oppoſite to Scotſtoun, took a ſemicircular direction, leaving the King's-Inch upon the north ſide, and running along by the bottom, of the garden belonging to the manſe, came into its preſent direction, juſt about the place where the ferry now is.——There is a pretty large canal made, on the old bed of the river, from the Clyde to the town, where even large veſſels can come and unload at ſpring tides. There is another canal made, to accommodate the people of Paiſley.——When the bridge of Inchinnan was built, the navigation to that town was very much obſtructed. Veſſels were then obliged to paſs through the arches, which could not be done without lowering their maſts, the channel below the bridge became vaſtly wider, and of courſe very ſhallow. To render the navigation of the river fit for veſſels with fixed maſts, the town of Paiſley obtained liberty, to make a cut about half a mile in length, in which, there is a very complete drawbridge, in the turnpike road, at the eaſt end of Inchinnan bridge.

——Not

—Not far from this ſpot, on the north ſide of the road, the Marquis of Argyle was taken, after he had croſſed the river on foot:—a party lay waiting for him the moment he came out of the water; he attempted to fire upon them, but, his piſtols being wet, would not diſcharge, upon which, one of the ruffians came behind him, and cut him on the head with a ſword; in the mean time, the Laird of Greenock came up, knew the Marquis, and took him priſoner. He was firſt carried to Renfrew, and thence to Edinburgh, where he was beheaded, on the 30th June, 1685.

Population.—In 1695, it appears from the poll-books, that there were in the country part of the pariſh 51 families; at preſent there are 88. At that time, and long after it, a great part of the pariſh lay unimproved and unincloſed, merely in a ſtate of nature. All theſe lands are now improved, incloſed, and parcelled out in ſmall farms. In 1755, the return to Dr. Webſter, amounted to 1091. In March, 1791, the population of the pariſh of Renfrew, was as follows:

Families in the pariſh - - -	374
Males - - - - -	800
Females - - - -	828
Souls - - - -	1628

	Families.	Males.	Females.	Souls.
Upon the north ſide of Clyde, there are	68	178	162	340
On the weſt ſide of White-Lart	25	76	67	143
In the country round the town	20	66	66	132
In the town	261	480	533	1013
Total	374	800	828	1628

Under 10 years of age	384
From 10 to 20	286
—— 20 to 50	716
—— 50 to 70	162
Above 70 *	77
Total	1628
Families married in the pariſh	268
Children of the marriage	1401
Farmers in the pariſh	49
Servants	171
Seceders	18
Looms	120
Ale-houſes	19
Ploughs (principally of the Northumberland make)	40

Abſtract of Baptiſms, Marriages, and Burials.

Years.	Baptiſms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1784	49	10	9
1785	55	7	10
1786	40	10	8
1787	60	9	12
1788	57	6	20
1789	55	6	17
1790	50	7	37
1791 (to Sep. 14th)	58	12	31
	424	67	144
Yearly aver. nearly	53	11	18

The

* Many of whom are above 80, and ſome above 90.

The number of deaths, in the two laſt years, was owing to the natural ſmall pox.

Rent, Proprietors, &c.——The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 3629 Scots, the real rent probably more than L. 3000. Some of the lands in the pariſh are let at 5s and 7s 6d. an acre; ſome at 40s; and ſome of the lands around the town, at L. 4 ſterling. There are 10 heritors in the pariſh, and a great number of portioners, poſſeſſing what is called Burgher lands, holding of the town. Three of the greater proprietors, either occaſionally, or conſtantly, reſide in the pariſh. There is neither a ſurgeon nor a writer reſiding in it, a circumſtance which is not much to be regretted.

Crops.—The chief crops are oats, barley, wheat, and potatoes. There is alſo a conſiderable quantity of clover and rye-graſs ſown every year, which, in general, anſwers extremely well. Potatoes are a great crop, particularly round the town, and there is a good market for them at Paiſley. The ſoil is exceedingly favourable for them, being a deep rich loam, upon a bed of ſand: Seventy-two bolls of very fine potatoes, have been produced on an acre.

Though the ground near the town has enjoyed no reſt, in the memory of the oldeſt man living, yet ſtill it bears good crops of every kind. They crop it, as long as the produce is tolerable, then they trench it; and in this way they go on.

Oats are ſown in March or April,--barley in April or May,--and wheat generally in October. The glebe laſt year was ſown in November, after fallow, and the wheat on it was as early, and as good as any in the country. In general, the wheat round the town, and indeed in moſt places of this country is ſown

after potatoes. Such a rotation requires a good ſoil, potatoes being a much ſeverer crop than moſt people are aware of. It is a certain fact, that wheat, produced from fallow ground, will always bring a better price, than wheat after potatoes *.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The church was built in 1726. It is not very well conſtructed, nor is it ſufficient to contain the inhabitants of the pariſh.———The king is patron.——— The ſtipend conſiſts of 12 chalders of meal, payed in money by the college of Glaſgow, according to the fiars of the Commiſſariot of Hamilton and Campſie. The glebe is about four acres; and the whole living amounts to about L. 150 *per annum.*

Poor.——In conſequence of an unfortunate miſunderſtanding, between the late incumbent and the heritors, the former threw up all connexion with the management of the poor, and the latter choſe a treaſurer of their own; and in this ſtate matters ſtill

* There is no part of Scots agriculture more difficult to determine, than what crop ſhould precede wheat. Fallow ought if poſſible to be avoided, as it is loſing a year. Wheat after turnips (unleſs ſpring wheat) is liable to the ſame objection, at leaſt, if the turnips are ſuffered to come to perfection. The crop of potatoes being ready for gathering, when the wheat ought to be ſown, is a ſtrong temptation to make the one follow the other; but potatoes, inſtead of enriching, rather exhauſt the ſoil, and make the ground too looſe and open, which endangers the crop of wheat during the froſts. Oats,—barley,—clover,—wheat, would perhaps be the beſt rotation where the ground was rich enough for it.

ſtill continue. There, is, however, a good fund; the intereſt of which, together with the collections at the church doors, ſhould be ſufficient, with a little aſſiſtance, to ſupply the poor of the pariſh. But the opulent, who do not chuſe to attend divine ſervice, ſhould ſend their mite regularly to the poor; otherwiſe people of inferior rank, may be tempted to imitate their example, not in abſenting themſelves from the church, but in with-holding their contributions.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.——There is no regular market here, though butcher-meat can be had occaſionally.——— The average price of oat-meal, for ſome years paſt, has been 1 s. per peck;—potatoes 8 d. (double the meaſure of Edinburgh);—mutton from 5d. to 8d. per pound;—beef from 5d. to 8d.—and hens 3s. a pair. Servants and day-labourers wages are very high. There are men now living, who, when young, thought L. 2:10 a year, great wages; and now, a hired ſervant by the year gets L. 10. Women remember, when they thought L. 1:10 a year, great wages; and now they are L. 2 a half year. Day-labourers now alive, have wrought for 5d. and 6d. a day. Day-labourers are now ſcarce, and not to be got under 1s. 6d. a day; and at this moment, women are receiving 1s. 4d. a day, and 1s. a day, and their victuals.——Thirty or forty years ago, dung was got for 6d. and 8 d. a cart, and the proprietors courted the farmer to take it away. The farmer, with difficulty, can now procure it at 2s. 6d. and makes intereſt to purchaſe it at that price.———Horſes, that ſome years ago were thought extravagantly high at L. 18, now bring L. 30 and L. 35.

All the pariſh is incloſed, and the farmers are abundantly ſenſible of the benefit of incloſures.———The character of the people, is, on the whole, reſpectable. Many of them

are

are extremely induſtrious, careful, and diligent, in providing for themſelves and their families. Drunkenneſs is much leſs common than formerly. There are, however, too many public-houſes in the town, (no leſs than 19, where one would imagine, that ſcarcely 3 could find employment); and theſe are found to be great promoters of idleneſs, and great enemies to induſtry.

NUMBER XV.

PARISH OF HAMILTON.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By MR. JOHN NAISMITH, *Author of* "Thoughts on "Various Subjects of Induſtry purſued after in Scot- "land."

Name, Extent, Situation, and Boundaries.

THE pariſh probably derives its preſent appellation from the noble family of that name, though vague tradition gives it a different origin. The whole diſtrict formerly ſeems to have been called *Cadzow*. It is ſituated in the centre of the middle ward of the county of Lanark, and is the ſeat of the preſbytery which bears its name, ſubject to the ſuperior juriſdiction of the ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. It is almoſt a ſquare, extending about ſix miles, from north-eaſt to ſouth-weſt, and being about five miles from north-weſt to ſouth-eaſt. The river Clyde runs along the eaſt and north of the pariſh, forming nearly the boundary, excepting in one place, where a large corner is cut off on the north ſide of the river. The pariſhes by which it is bounded are Dalziel and Cambuſnethan on the eaſt, Dalſerf and Stonhouſe on the ſouth, Glaſsford and Blantire on the weſt, and Bothwel on the north.

Surface and Soil.—Along the Clyde lie extenſive vallies of a deep and fertile ſoil. Thence the land riſes gradually everywhere to the ſouth-weſt, to a conſiderable height; in the higheſt parts being about 600 feet above the level of the ſea; but without forming itſelf into any hill, or becoming remarkably uneven. The ſoil of the riſing ground is moſtly of a clayiſh nature. The lower parts of the aſcent are tolerably fertile, and well cultivated; but from the nature of the ſoil and bottom, the crops are ſeldom early. The higheſt parts often produce ſcanty, and always late crops. The ſurface, not being broken by any great irregularities, the land is all arable, except ſome ſteep banks by the ſides of the rivers and brooks, a few ſwampy meadows in the upper part of the pariſh, and ſuch parts as are covered with planting or natural wood, the extent of which is ſtill conſiderable; though much ground, formerly covered with wood, has been converted into cornfields.

Rivers.—Beſides the Clyde, already mentioned, a ſmaller river, called the Avon, which comes from the ſouth, and runs near four miles through the pariſh, empties itſelf into the Clyde near the town. The banks of the Avon, as it paſſes through the Duke of Hamilton's park, are high and bold; and, being covered with wood of various kinds, having different tints of foliage, are extremely pictureſque, forming a fine contraſt with the plains below. There are ſeveral other ſmall ſtreams, the banks of which are well wooded in the low ground, but naked towards their ſources in the upper country.

Salmon, trout, pike, perch, roach, lampreys, ſilver eels, and ſmall flounders, are found in theſe ſtreams and rivers; but no kind of fiſh in great abundance, excepting the minnow. The quantity of ſalmon, in particular, has much decreaſed of late years. The number of fry killed by anglers, the great

fiſhery

fiſhery carried on, in the populous country lower down the Clyde, the deepening of the channel for improving the navigation from the ſea to Glaſgow, and the manufacturing machinery erected on the river, are ſuppoſed to have diſturbed and deſtroyed the fiſh; and, by preventing them from getting regularly to their ſpawning ground, muſt neceſſarily have diminiſhed their numbers. There is no regular market for any kind of fiſh caught here; but of late, ſome ſurplus ſalmon from the Duke's fiſhery have been ſold, in the plentiful ſeaſon, for 2d. per pound avoirdupois, laſt year at 3d. and this year at 4d. In deep ſtill pools, are found a large bivalvular ſhell-fiſh, known here by the name of the horſe muſcle. They are not uſed as food, but in ſome of them are found ſmall pearls; ſo rarely, however, that they are ſcarcely thought worth the fiſhing for.

The rivers are not navigable here; but in great rains they ſwell to a conſiderable height, and cover a great extent of the low land; ſometimes ſweeping away the crops by the violence of the inundation. On the 12th of March 1782, in particular, the flood was near two feet higher than was ever remembered before; and the river roſe about 16 feet perpendicular, above the ordinary level of low water. It overflowed a great tract of country, and appeared like an arm of the ſea.

There are two bridges over the Clyde in this pariſh; one of an old ſtanding, called Bothwel-bridge; famous for a ſkirmiſh in the reign of King Charles II. between a body of the Whigs, and a party of the King's army, in which the former were routed with a great ſlaughter. The other was built immediately below the influx of Avon, under the authority of an act of parliament; and was finiſhed in 1780. Avon has alſo two bridges; one on the road through Hamilton towards Carlyle, which was built before the 16th century; and ſtrengthened and enlarged, ſo as to admit the paſſage of wheel carriages, about the

beginning of the present century*; the other was built last year, principally for the accommodation of a gentleman in the neighbourhood.

Buildings.—Hamilton house, the residence of the duke of that name, a large and well built pile, stands on the upper border of the great valley, lying west of the conflux of the two rivers. The modern part, which is by far the most considerable, was built about the end of the last century; but part of the house is of longer standing, bearing date 1591 This palace, (as it is sometimes called,) was at first built in the middle of the town, which formerly stood clustering around it; but the lower part having been gradually purchased, and pulled down, by the noble family above mentioned, for the extension and improvements of their pleasure grounds, (as soon as the more secure state of the country gave them less occasion for the assistance and protection of the inhabitants,) the town has since stretched to the south and west, and the palace is almost left standing detached below it. The remains

* The following tradition is handed down with respect to the first building of this bridge. Some controverted point was to be settled by a plurality of voices, at a meeting of the clergy, to be held at Hamilton, upon a certain day. A priest who lived southward from the town, had been very zealous on one side of the controversy, and had prevailed with a great number of the brethren in his neighbourhood, to join him in supporting it. But on the day fixed, when they came to the side of the river, it was swoln with the rains beyond the possibility of passing, and the opposite party carried the point; at which, the priest was so much provoked, that, being very rich, he immediately ordered a bridge to be built at his own expence, that such a disappointment might not occur in future.

mains of the antient manor-houſe, called Cadzow-caſtle, which ſeems to have been deſerted, after the injuries which it ſuffered by Regent Murray's army, are ſtill to be ſeen on the weſt bank of the Avon, in the middle of the great park, about a mile from the town: And, on the oppoſite ſide of the ſame river, ſtands a ſhowy building, in imitation of a ruin, executed from a deſign of the elder Adams. It was built by the Duke of Hamilton, about 1730, and is ſaid to have been intended as a repreſentation of the caſtle of Chatelherault, in France, of which his anceſtors were dukes.—The town is very irregularly built, ſkirting around the bottom of a riſing ground, above three quarters of a mile in length. It is a conſiderable thorough-fare, the roads from Glaſgow to England, and from Edinburgh to Ayrſhire, &c. paſſing through it. In the middle there is a priſon and town-houſe, built in 1643, containing a court, hall, &c.——There are alſo convenient buildings for markets; in particular, one for butchers' meat, which is in general pretty well ſtocked with the ordinary ſorts, at their different ſeaſons.

The pariſh church is a handſome building, erected in 1732, inſtead of an old one, which ſtood hard by the palace. It ſtands upon the riſing ground above the town, and makes a very good appearance. It was alſo deſigned by Mr Adams. Towards the weſt end of the town, there is a large meeting-houſe, built by the people who were unwilling to ſubmit to the unlimited exerciſe of patronage, in 1776: And on the eaſt ſide, a meeting-houſe for the people of the Antiburgher perſuaſion, built in the year 1761; and lately repaired and enlarged.

Near the town-houſe, ſtands an hoſpital or alms-houſe, built inſtead of one which ſtood in the lower part of the town, now erazed, and was endowed by the noble family of Hamilton, and other pious donors. It contains lodgings for eight poor men, a hall for morning and evening prayers, beſides

ſome

ſome ſhops and rooms ſet for the benefit of the funds. To the weſt, there is another hoſpital, for four old men and their families; built and endowed in the year 1775, by William Aikman, Eſq. proprietor of an eſtate in the pariſh, and ſome time merchant in Leghorn.

It is difficult to determine, at what period the town was built. The lower part, which was certainly the oldeſt, no longer remains. One houſe ſtill ſtanding, has date 1533, cut over the gateway; and parts of ſome others are ſaid to be ſtill older. A writing among the town records, which bears to have been preſented to the Court of Seſſion, in 1580, ſets forth, that the "town was erected into a free burgh of baro-"ny by the king's moſt noble progenitors, in the year "1456." In 1548, Mary, Queen of Scotland, created it a free royal burgh. But the rights and privileges thus acquired from the Crown, were, after the Reſtoration, reſigned into the hands of William and Ann, Duke and Ducheſs of Hamilton; who, in 1670, reſtored to the community its former poſſeſſions, and erected it into a "burgh of regality," dependent on them and their ſucceſſors: and thus it has continued, after ſome ineffectual ſtruggles, to this time.

Air, Diſeaſes, &c.—The air is generally reputed tolerably dry and healthful ——Fogs are not frequent, and rains leſs ſo than at other places a few miles diſtant; inſomuch that it is a general complaint, in this and ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes, that they are later in getting refreſhing ſhowers, than moſt other parts of the country. This is one cauſe of the lateneſs of the harveſts. After the ſummer ſolſtice, the rains are commonly more copious; and during open weather in the winter ſeaſon, a great deal often falls.

The water of many of the wells about the town is

hard *; but neither that, nor any thing in the air, is thought to be injurious to the health of the inhabitants.—There is no diſeaſe peculiar to the place. Colds, fevers of different kinds, particularly ſlow nervous fevers, fluxes, ſmall-pox, &c. prevail here, at times, as in other places around. Inoculation for the ſmall-pox is practiſed, but the common people are not reconciled to it. Seventy-five children were ſwept away by this diſeaſe in 1787. The ague, or any ſpecies of intermitting fevers, is not known here, except with people who have caught the diſeaſe in other countries, and are viſited with occaſional returns of it †. A good many people in this pariſh have arrived at a great age; ſeveral having died of late years from 90 to above 100; particularly a man and his wife, the one 106, and the other 102: There are ſeveral above 80 now living.

Cattle, Cultivation, and Produce.——A few years ago, the principal part of the pariſh was occupied in tillage, and then above 300 horſes were employed in cultivating the land, and 900 cows were kept, beſides the young ſtock of both kinds. But the land being now moſtly incloſed, ſome farms are, at times, turned into paſture for fattening, which diminiſhes the number of horſes and milch-cows. There are 30 draught horſes kept in the town, principally by carters, who ply for hire;

* That is, tinctured with ſome mineral admixtures.

† The ſcurvy is almoſt unknown, nor are any kind of cutaneous diſeaſes frequent, though oat-meal makes a great part of the food of the people. Thoſe, who are diſpoſed to reprobate the uſe of this wholeſome and nouriſhing fund of ſubſiſtence, ought to examine the healthy and blooming countenances of the people in this country, who feed on ſcarcely anyother food, before they condemn the uſe of it *in toto*.

hire; 16 for the conveyance of travellers, and about 100 milch-cows for the uſe of the inhabitants. There are no ſheep now bred and kept in the pariſh, except a few pets from different Engliſh breeds. But great numbers are annually bought in, to be fattened on the paſtures, particularly thoſe round the palace of Hamilton, ſometimes to the amount of 1700, or 1800 in a ſeaſon.

In this pariſh, as well as in all the neighbouring ones, every farmer formerly kept a few ſheep, which were of a kind more domeſticated and improved, than thoſe now bred in the mountains. Their bodies were long and ſquat made, their heads erect, having either ſmall horns, or no horns at all, their legs ſhort, their faces and legs white, or ſlightly ſprinkled with black or brown ſpots, their fleeces ſoft, and moſtly of the longeſt kind of carding wool; their tails were not ſo long as thoſe of the Engliſh ſince introduced, nor ſo ſhort as thoſe of the muirland ſheep, but deſcended almoſt to the knee joint, and ſeldom below it. Theſe ſheep were conſtantly attended by a boy or girl during the day, whom they followed to and from the paſture, and penned at night in a houſe called the Bught, which had ſlits in the walls to admit the air, and was ſhut in with a hurdle door. In this houſe was a rack, into which peaſe-ſtraw or ſoft hay was put, in winter, every evening, and in times of ſnow, a few ſtalks of unthreſhed peaſe or oats were added; and the floor was littered from time to time with dry ſtraw, or turfs dried and piled up in ſummer. Theſe little flocks were the peculiar care of their owners. The whole family was intereſted in the buſineſs: for every child claimed the property of a ewe-lamb, and its future progeny, and an emulation prevailed among them, who ſhould poſſeſs the handſomeſt, and moſt valuable part of the flock. Hence, after yeaning-time, the young were daily examined with the greateſt ſolicitude, and a hairy or ſpotted fleece, a defective

habit

habit of body, an aukward ſhape, horns too thick at the bottom, or ſtreaked with black, were blemiſhes which doomed the animal irrevocably to the knife; none being preſerved for ſtock, but ſuch as poſſeſſed all the characteriſtics of beauty and utility. In this manner were theſe ſheep improved to ſuch a degree, that their wool was preferred to any then known in the neighbouring markets. When incloſing with hedges became frequent, the farmers were obliged to part with theſe little flocks, which injured the young fences, and gradually ſold them off for ſlaughter; ſo that no remains of them can now be traced in this part of the country.

This pariſh produces wheat, oats, peaſe, beans, barley, hay, cheeſe and butter, ſome flax, and a good many potatoes. Wheat is ſometimes ſown after peaſe and beans, oats or potatoes, but generally after fallow. The produce commonly is from 40 to 70 Wincheſter buſhels per Scots acre; but, in 1783, 84, and 85, the long ſevere froſts in the ſpring deſtroyed the young wheat, and, for ſome years after, greatly diſcouraged this branch of agriculture. The farmers, however, are again returned to their former practice of ſowing this grain, finding wheat a very beneficial crop, when it ſucceeds. The cultivation of it, however, does not anſwer well on the higher grounds; and, all over the neighbourhood, it meets with obſtructions from the autumnal rains; by which the ſoil is ſo much ſoftened, as to be unfit for the reception of the ſeed, or bearing working cattle to cover it in.

Formerly a conſiderable quantity of barley of an excellent quality, was produced here, particularly in the lower parts of the pariſh; but the backward ſprings, and cold inconſtant ſummers, which have been prevalent for more than twenty years paſt, have been very unfavourable to the growth of that plant, particularly, where the predominant ſoil is clay. Huſbandmen advanced in life, concur in aſſerting, that the average

produce of barley is now scarcely three fifths of what it was in their younger days; and the culture of it is almost abandoned, except for cleaning and preparing the land for the reception of artificial grasses.

The greater part of the parish produces good pease and beans; the seeds of which are, for the most part, sown promiscuously, the one or the other kind preponderating more or less, as the cultivator apprehends the soil and circumstances of the case may require. On the poorer land, pease are sown alone: and, in favourable seasons, a considerable quantity of these kinds of grain is produced and sent to market. But the late unfavourable years have been much more productive of straw than of seed, and have tended greatly to discourage the culture of these plants *. Indeed there is no kind of crop, which more frequently disappoints the expectation of the husbandman.

Wheat and oats are now the grains on which the farmer principally depends. Wheat, coming forward early in the season, fills and ripens, while the days are long and the sun powerful. Oats are of a very hard nature, and are brought to maturity by a less degree of heat than the other ordinary field crops require. It is remarkable, that in some parts of this parish, where the soil was firm, and the land lay sheltered from the high winds, which prevailed during the summer of that year, and loosened the roots of the corn in exposed places, the oats were found to produce nearly as much meal, in 1790, as they used to do in the best seasons; though the ripening could scarcely be said to have commenced, till the mild weather

* Some people, thinking they have observed, that barley, pease, and beans have become less successful, as the culture of artificial grasses has become more prevalent, attribute the failure of these kinds of grain to the introduction of rye-grass.

ther came in, which ſucceeded the autumnal equinox. The beſt oats here produce 8 ſtone, Dutch weight, of meal, from a boll of the ordinary meaſure of the country; one boll and a fourth of which, is nearly equal to the Engliſh quarter of 8 Wincheſter buſhels. The produce of an acre varies greatly, according to the ſoil, the ſeaſon, and other circumſtances.

Almoſt every huſbandman cultivates potatoes; not only for the uſe of his family, but to feed his horſes and cows; for which they are found very beneficial. There are alſo a good many cultivated for ſale. Artificers, inhabitants of the town and villages, plant potatoes on ſpots rented for one year, for which they pay at the rate of from L. 4 to L. 8 per acre; and this they dreſs at their leiſure hours. The cultivation of potatoes is advantageous. It puts the ground in good order for the enſuing crop, whilſt an acre, when ready for digging, commonly ſells at from L. 12 to L. 18. However, much of the ſoil, in this pariſh, being rather heavy for that root, the culture of it does not ſucceed well in very wet, or very dry ſeaſons. Beſides, every ſort of ſoil here, is injured by repeating the culture of potatoes too frequently upon it. The plant itſelf, alſo, is of late frequently infected with a diſeaſe, particulary in the lower grounds near the town, which proves very injurious. After it begins to riſe, its leaves contract and ſhrivel, and when that part of the ſtalk, which is below the earth, is examined, a narrow groove, or longitudinal ſcar, appears corroded through the fine gloſſy rind; and, on that part, the pure white is tinged with a light ochre colour; which tinge, when the diſeaſe goes to a great height, is afterwards communicated to the new roots. When thoſe ſymptoms appear, though the plant proceeds to produce flowers and apples, its growth is ſtunted, and ſooner over than that of a healthy plant; and, when the diſeaſe is violent, the roots which it produces, are

few in number, ſmall in ſize, and not pleaſant to the taſte. This diſeaſe is not mentioned here, as ſuppoſing it peculiar to the pariſh, which is the ſubject of this deſcription: For it ſeems, that it has been ſeverely felt in many other parts in Britain, and has occaſioned various diſſertations, none of which are ſaid to be ſatisfactory. But, as it is believed, that it was obſerved to make its appearance about this town, before it was known any where in the country immediately around it; and, as it is an important article in the natural hiſtory of this moſt valuable root, which has not yet been fully inveſtigated; this hint may not be improper to excite more accurate inquiries concerning its cauſe and cure *.

The

* This diſeaſe firſt made its appearance in the neighbourhood of Hamilton, about the year 1770, or 1771, and has ſince been gradually gaining ground, inſomuch that people have ſometimes almoſt intirely loſt their crops, without knowing how that loſs could have been prevented. Many contradictory cauſes have been aſſigned for this extraordinary phenomenon, all of them, perhaps, conjectural. The moſt popular and plauſible, is, that the root degenerates by being too long planted in a country, widely different from its native ſoil and climate; and, that to prevent this evil, it ought to be renovated, by obtaining new ones from the ſeed contained in the apple. But waving all ſpeculative reaſoning on the ſubject, one plain fact is a ſufficient objection to that hypotheſis; namely, that the diſeaſe never made its appearance till after thoſe renovated potatoes were introduced, and has increaſed as they have been multiplied. It muſt, nevertheleſs, be acknowledged, that raiſing new potatoes from the apple for ſeed has been of conſiderable ſervice. They become fit to be diſcriminated, and cut into ſets for ſeed the ſecond year; and, when proper kinds are choſen, and the other varieties, with which they are always accompanied,

The culture of carrot, turnips, and cabbage, is ſcarcely practiſed here, except in gardens.

Red, white, and yellow clover, rye-graſs, ribwort, &c. are cultivated here, for hay and paſture, and no perſon now lays

panied, rejected, they generally prove very fruitful for ſome years.

Whatever may be the cauſe of this diſeaſe, nothing can be diſcovered in the parent root to give any indication of its being lodged there, nor does it appear, in fact, to proceed from it. The brown ſcar, above mentioned, breaks out always near the ſurface of the earth, and is frequently three inches above the original root; beſides, a healthy plant, and a diſeaſed one, have been frequently found to ſpring from contiguous eyes in the middle of the ſame potatoe; and ſometimes both a healthy, and a diſeaſed one from the ſame eye: Yet the producing germ ſeems to be in ſome manner contaminated; for, potatoes, from different ſtalks planted at the ſame time, in one field, and undergoing the ſame treatment, one of them will produce healthy, and the other curled plants; and when the diſeaſe once appears among potatoes, if part of their produce is uſed for ſeed, in the ſubſequent ſeaſon, a greater proportion of the plants will be infected every year, though thoſe, ſprung from diſeaſed plants, have been rejected.

The diſeaſe firſt made its appearance in rich ground, manured with offals from the town; and even potatoes, which prove healthy on ſuch land one year, are frequently much diſeaſed, though planted on other land, the year following.

Though the diſeaſe has ſpread much ſince its firſt appearance, it has been confined to low lying lands, and has not yet reached any place, in this part of the country, which lies more than 350 feet above the level of the ſea; nor are plants ſprung from potatoes which grow in ſuch places, ſubject to it, even in the low ground for a year or two. Since this has been diſcovered, it has proved the beſt antidote againſt the growing evil.

lays down land to reſt, without ſowing the ſeeds of ſome of theſe plants upon it. The produce of hay is from one to three tons per acre, beſides an after growth, which is generally paſtured on, or cut for green food, the autumn being ſeldom favourable for making it into hay. But red clover never continues vigorous in the ground, for more than two years at the utmoſt. Of late, rye-graſs frequently dies after producing one crop, and the other plants, above mentioned, diminiſh in ſize; ſo that after one crop of hay, the land is generally uſed in paſture. The management of the dairy is ſcarcely brought to ſuch perfection here, as in ſome pariſhes to the weſtward; but there are people who make cheeſe and butter of a very good quality, and the produce of a cow, well managed in that way, will yield about L. 4 *per annum*. The profits on fattening are fluctuating, and depend on the riſe and fall of the markets for lean and fat cattle: but fattening, being attended with leſs trouble and expence than the conduct of the dairy, is preferred by ſome people, and, upon the whole, is frequently full as advantageous. It is farther to be obſerved, that graziers here give a higher rent for paſture, when they are at liberty to feed black cattle upon it, than when they are confined to paſture it with ſheep.

Little flax is ſown, except for private uſe. At times, ſome people have made greater adventures, and put in for the premiums offered by the Truſtees, not always without ſucceſs: But the care and attention, requiſite to make the culture of flax advantageous, have never been regularly purſued in this pariſh. Some of the farmers formerly ſowed a little hemp, which they afterwards made into ropes for domeſtic uſe; but their time being now taken up with other articles, that practice is laid aſide.

The modes of cultivation, and rotation of crops, are ſo various, that it is impoſſible to give any idea of the average quantity

of

of land, applied to any particular purpoſe. For the like reaſons, it is equally difficult to aſcertain the average amount of the annual produce. When, from the viciſſitudes which occur in human affairs, old paſtures are converted into tillage, the quantity of grain raiſed is, neceſſarily, more abundant for a time; but it is believed, that, in general, the produce of the pariſh will ſcarcely yeild one half of its annual conſumption.

Some farmers have got different kinds of new invented ploughs, and have them occaſionally drawn by two horſes, and worked by a plowman without an aſſiſtant. But the Scots plough, drawn by three or four horſes, is the moſt common. Some improvements have been lately made upon it; and when a greater or leſſer number of horſes are yoked, as the reſiſtance may require, it is found to make excellent work, and to ſuit all the various purpoſes of huſbandry equally well, and, according to ſome, rather better than any other. A good deal of land here is dug with the ſpade. This is done for 25 or 26s per acre; and, when the work is properly done, the crop is found fully to anſwer the additional expence.

The cultivation of the orchard has not been carried to ſuch a length, nor, perhaps, been ſo ſucceſsful, as in ſome of the neighbouring pariſhes. Probably both the bottom and the expoſure are leſs favourable. However, there are a good many little orchards in the lower parts, producing apples, pears, plumbs, and cherries. In good ſeaſons, they bear very good and well-flavoured fruit; but, upon the whole, this is a very precarious article of produce, ſubject to many injuries from ſpring-froſts, the depredations of caterpillars, ſummer's blights, &c. ſo that there is ſcarcely one year in three, in which the orchards turn to good account. The ſeaſons, of late, have been particularly unfavourable. Conſiderable quantities

of

of gooſe-berries and currants, produced here, are ſent to the Glaſgow market.

Foreſt trees, of all kinds, capable of ſtanding the climate of Scotland, thrive in the lower parts of the pariſh. Some of them attain to a great ſize. On poor land, in high expoſures, the larix, ſince it has been introduced, has thriven better than any other. Next to it, is the Scots fir. Scarcely any other kind of wood has ſucceeded in the high ground except the birch. At the ſame time, the beech, the aſh, and the plane, will ſtand the ſevereſt expoſure, when they have a ſufficient depth of dry ſoil.

It has been already ſtated, that the pariſh is moſtly incloſed, that is to ſay, the fields are in general ſurrounded with earthen mounds dug out of a trench, in the face of which, a row of white thorn has been planted: But it is a rare thing, excepting in the beſt ſoils and moſt ſheltered places, to find the length of fifty yards together of ſufficient fence, and in many places there are not ten yards in fifty. The thorns, when the ſoil, in which they are planted, is in any degree tolerable, make ſhoots for a few years; but the bank of hard unproductive earth, to which they are confined, affording them little nouriſhment, and, at the ſame time, ſecluding them from the beneficial influences of the ſun and air, they become ſtunted, and, at length, are ſmothered up, in many places, with a coat of ſhaggy gray moſs growing all over them. The deficiency requires to be perpetually made up by repeated ſupplies of dead fence. Much of the under ſoil in this pariſh is, no doubt, unfriendly to the growth of quickſet hedges, but probably the manner of planting is not leſs unfavourable. Hedges planted on the top of a bank, of the beſt ſoil, gathered from the ſurface, generally ſucceed better, and it is only in that ſituation, that quickſet hedges continue to be permanent

fences, where the ſoil is thin, and the bottom retentive of water.

Upon the whole, this pariſh is rather a beautiful than a fertile country, and cultivation has been more ſucceſsful in enriching the ſcenery, than in multiplying the annual productions. Not that the land is incapable of improvement: for there are ſeveral ſpots, particularly ſuch as have been in the poſſeſſion of ſmall proprietors, which have been rendered more than doubly productive, in the courſe of the laſt thirty years. Nor are the huſbandmen deficient in induſtry, or a diſpoſition to labour: But a variety of adverſe contingencies has diſappointed the good effects, which ſuch diſpoſitions might have produced. Villages have been demoliſhed, and land, which formerly gave ſufficient employment to three or four families, has been put into the poſſeſſion of one man. Rents have been raiſed, in ſome inſtances, beyond what the ability of the tenants could pay, who have thus been made bankrupt, driven from their farms, and ſucceeded by others, no better qualified than the former poſſeſſors. From theſe and other circumſtances, which would take too much time here to enumerate, agricultural ſtock has been diſſipated, and the numbers, the energy and enterpriſe of huſbandmen neceſſarily diminiſhed. Thus, the improvement of a country, which, from the nature of its ſoil and climate, requires the moſt vigorous exertions, and the moſt vigilant attention to cultivate it to the beſt advantage, has been greatly impeded.

The rent of land, at a diſtance from the town, let in leaſe for 19 years, is from 5 or 6s to a guinea per acre. Good land, near the town, is let from L. 3 to L. 5; and there are inſtances of rich land, which had been long in paſture or highly manured, being let, for a ſhort ſpace of time, from L. 5 to L. 8, for raiſing wheat and other grains.

Foſſils.——Coal is found in this pariſh, as well as in all the neighbouring country, and ſtill continues to be wrought in the Duke of Hamilton's property. But the greateſt part of the coal, conſumed here, is brought from the neighbouring pariſhes, and is delivered at the town for about 5s per ton. Thirty years ago, it was not above half that price. Lime abounds in the upper part of the pariſh; and in one place, has been wrought for a century paſt. In the lime-works are found, bivalvular and ſpiral ſhells, reſembling ſmall ſea ſhells; and, in a thin bed of clay, which is ſometimes found above the lime, there are many of theſe ſhells, ſome of them ſo minute, as ſcarcely to be diſcerned by the naked eye. Bits of ſmall petrified ſticks are alſo found above the lime, ſo hard as to ſtrike fire; and yet the component parts ſo diſtinctly preſerved, that the bark, the different years growth of the wood, and the pith, can be eaſily diſtinguiſhed. Free-ſtone, moſtly ſoft, and of a reddiſh colour, abounds almoſt every where; but in ſome places it is white and firm.—The higheſt land in the ſouth-weſt part of the pariſh, has a great ridge of whin ſtone rock. Iron ſtone is frequently to be met with; and the water of different ſprings is ſtrongly tinctured with the ore of that metal; but none of theſe have obtained any great degree of fame in the cure of diſeaſes. There are ſeveral petrifying or encruſting ſprings, iſſuing from the rocks; which, when they fall upon moſs, make an encruſtation around its filaments, and form thoſe fantaſtic figures which are kept in the cabinets of the curious. Beds of fullers' and potters' earth are found in different places; and, in one part, a very pure yellow ochre, in conſiderable quantities.

Population.——From a minute enumeration of the inhabitants, taken in 1791, it appears, there are 954 families

in

in the town, and palace of Hamilton. The number of ſouls is as follows, viz.

Males 10 years of age, and upwards	-	1198	
—— —— —— under ten	-	436	
		——	1634
Females 10 years of age, and upwards	-	1508	
—— —— —— under ten	-	459	
		——	1967
			——
Souls in the town - - -			3601

The families in the country part of the pariſh are 298, containing,

Males of 10 years, and upwards	-	516	
—— —— —— under ten	-	153	
		——	669
Females above 10 - -		574	
—— under 10 - -		173	
		——	747
		——	1416
			——
Total ſouls in the pariſh - -			5017

There are about 48 farmers in the pariſh, beſides a number of occupiers of ſmall ſpots, many of whom have ſome other employment, and above 42 perſons employed in the coal and lime-works.

The people here are very inattentive to the regiſtering of their children's births, ſo that no authentic information can be obtained reſpecting that ſubject: But the number of marriages is better aſcertained, amounting, at an average of the laſt three years, to 36. By an account of deaths, kept by the pariſh grave-digger, the mortality for the three laſt years, is as fol-

lows: In 1788,—91, in 1789,—120, and in 1790, (which was a year uncommonly fatal, an epidemical nervous fever having raged for ſome months,) 167. The annual average of theſe three years, is 126, to which, about 10 muſt be added, ſuppoſed to be carried annually to other burying grounds, making in all 136; ſo that, about 1 in 37 die yearly.

The only enumeration of the pariſh at any former period, which can now be traced, is that tranſmitted to Dr Webſter, about the year 1755, which makes the number of ſouls at that time 3815. Hence, the increaſe of population in the laſt 40 years, is 1202. It is probable, that this is the real progreſſive ſtate of the population of this diſtrict. There is no doubt, that the numbers, in the country part of the pariſh, have diminiſhed conſiderably ſince that period: for, though new houſes have been built in ſeveral places, yet there were then four or five villages, containing a good number of inhabitants, in which, there now are very few. The town, however, has greatly increaſed, particularly of late. An exact liſt of all the families in it, was taken in the year 1782, and amounted only to 805, and, ſuppoſing the average number in each family to be in the ſame proportion as at preſent, (little more than $3\frac{1}{4}$,) the increaſe in the laſt nine years, is about 564, and in that time, the country part of the pariſh has continued nearly the ſame.

It will be obvious, that there is a conſiderable change of the ſtate of the place, by taking a comparative view of it at different periods. Thirty years ago, there were not more than 9 or 10 carpenters and joiners of all kinds in the pariſh, and ſome of theſe, at times, not very well employed. There are now about 58 in the town of Hamilton, alone. Three or four bakers baked all the bread for this, and the neighbouring pariſhes: There are now 18 bakers, maſters and aſſiſtants, in this place, beſides many ovens and bakers in the neighbourhood. At the

firſt period there were not more than 250 weavers' looms in the pariſh: there are now 450. Theſe, without carrying the compariſon farther, will evidently ſhow a conſiderable increaſe of population and induſtry.

There are 5 practitioners of medicine in the town; and ſix attorneys; three common brewers; and one diſtiller, who conſumes much more grain than all the brewers. All of them obtain the greater part of their materials from other diſtricts. There is no leſs a number, than 66 houſes for retailing liquors, beſides thoſe which are unlicenſed.

Manufactures.——When induſtry began to flouriſh in Scotland, it was generally expected that Hamilton, from the exertions, which the inhabitants had already made in all the branches of domeſtic induſtry,——from the plenty and cheapneſs of fuel,—from its fine ſtreams of water,—from its eaſy communication with all the neighbouring diſtricts,—from its vicinity to Glaſgow, on the one hand, and an extenſive corn country, on the other;—and its exemption from the diſturbances of election politics, would have made great progreſs in manufactures. It has, however, fallen far ſhort of theſe expectations. Paiſley and Kilmarnock, which, fifty years ago, were not more conſiderable, and are not poſſeſſed of any viſible ſuperiority in regard to local advantages, have now become large opulent towns, while this place ſtill continues comparatively inconſiderable. The people, however, are occupied in manufactures of various kinds. All kinds of cabinet and carpenter work are executed here, not only for the uſe of the inhabitants, but for others at a conſiderable diſtance. The tanning and dreſſing of leather is carried on to a conſiderable extent; and great quantities of ſkins, for that manufacture, are brought from Glaſgow, and even from Ireland. A good deal of dreſſed leather is now ſent to London, whence formerly much of what was uſed here

was

was brought. Saddlery is carried on to ſome extent. There is alſo a great manufacture for ſhoes, and 120 ſhoemakers are employed in it; who, beſides making that article for the people in the neighbourhood, manufacture different kinds for exportation. The candles made here, have long had a great character; and one family in particular, has carried on that buſineſs with reputation and ſucceſs, for four ſucceſſive generations. ——But the principal manufacture is weaving, which has long been followed here to ſome extent, and has of late greatly increaſed. Beſides the looms above mentioned, there are 24 ſtocking frames; chiefly employed by the Glaſgow manufacturers. A ſmall manufacture of thread lace has long been carried on here. At an early period, it was the occupation of a good many women; but, from the fluctuation of faſhion, it had fallen greatly into diſuſe. Faſhion again revived the demand; and the late Ducheſs of Hamilton, afterwards of Argyle, found ſtill ſome lace-workers remaining, to whom her own demand, and that of thoſe who followed her example, gave employment. To theſe, her Grace added 12 orphan girls, who were cloathed, maintained, and taught at her expence. Others learned the art; and, while the demand laſted, the manufacture employed a good many hands. Though the number is again diminiſhed, there are ſtill above 40 at the buſineſs, who make handſome laces of different patterns, beſides thoſe who work occaſionally for themſelves, or their friends. Perhaps, under the patronage of the preſent reſpectable Ducheſs, the manufacture of Hamilton lace may again become as flouriſhing as ever. But the principal employment of the women of this pariſh has long been the ſpinning of linen yarn; packs of which were collected and ſent to England, about the beginning of this century, beſides what was made into cloth at home. So late as the year 1750, large parcels of yarn were ſent from Hamilton to the north of Ireland: but the Iriſh

have

have ſince learned to make good yarn, to ſupply their own demands; and the manufacture at home has conſumed all the yarn, made in this neighbourhood.

The ſtate of manufactures has, of late, undergone conſiderable alterations. Formerly, almoſt all the weavers manufactured linen only, and either employed themſelves, or derived their employment from others on the ſpot. Now they get employment from the great manufacturers in Glaſgow, &c. and cotton yarn is the principal material. Young women, who were formerly put to the ſpinning-wheel, now learn to flower muſlin, and apply to the agents of the ſame manufacturers for employment. On the other hand, the greateſt number of the ſhoe-makers formerly derived their employment from the Glaſgow manufacturers: Whereas now the ſhoe-makers of this, and great numbers in the neighbouring pariſhes, are employed by dealers in this town. Some people here are now beginning to attempt the manufacture of thread.

Character.——The people of this place have long had the character of being affable, courteous, and humane; and are diſtinguiſhed for eaſy, ſociable, and accommodating manners. But the moſt leading feature in their general character, is a kind of ſportive humour, breaking out in little ſallies of fancy, as often as opportunities occur. This has frequently ſhown itſelf in whimſical rhymes, ſquibs and paſquinades on all occaſions; in giving people additional names, adapted to their diſpoſitions, or ſome remarkable occurrence in their lives, and in conteſt for ſuperiority in converſation, and repartee. They are alſo ſaid to have been rather addicted to the pleaſures of the bottle. The manners of the people, upon the whole, however, long continued to be decent and reſpectable. Moral or intellectual delinquency were the objects, at which ridicule was generally pointed. Their moſt uſual beverage was

a lively malt liquor, of moderate ſtrength; which was thought to be well made here, as long as the nature of the exciſe permitted it. Their convivial meetings, were, of courſe, rarely attended with riot, or extravagant debauch. The better ſort retained a reſpect for order and propriety; the inferior ranks were ſubmiſſive to authority, and reſpectful to their ſuperiors; an eſteem for virtue, a juſt regard to the peace and property of others, and an unambitious contented ſpirit, generally prevailed. The beautiful tints of this pleaſing picture are now ſomewhat defaced. Decency is too often the butt of ſcorn; and it is the beſt zeſt of a frolic, that it is attended with miſchief to the inoffenſive. Whiſky, which inflames its votaries with fury, or debaſes them into the groſſeſt ſtupidity, is become a common beverage; and people too often forget every ſenſe of duty, when indulging the bewitching draught. Even women of the lower ranks are not aſhamed, as often as they have an opportunity, to drink it to intoxication. The changes in the ſtate of our manufactures, which have been above adverted to, having removed the intermediate gradations in the ſcale of ſociety, operative people, deprived of the proſpect of advancing a ſtep higher, have loſt that incentive to economy and induſtry: nor has the eye of the employer, at a diſtance, and almoſt unknown, any influence as a reſtraint on their behaviour. The young artizan, having finiſhed his ſhort apprenticeſhip, finds himſelf maſter of his conduct and of his earnings, before he has attained diſcretion to manage them; and, yielding to bad example, unthinkingly plunges into folly and diſſipation. Thus are the ſocial and domeſtic duties too often neglected, by thoſe, whoſe exiſtence depends upon their application to labour. Habits of lazineſs gain ground; and a day of idleneſs or riot is ſometimes cloſed by a night, either employed in wanton miſchief, or in ſupplying the deficiency of in-

duſtry by pillage; ſo that no kind of property, which is neceſſarily expoſed to depredation, is any longer ſafe.

Amidſt this general diſſolution of manners, the people of Hamilton may be rather ſaid to be deficient in virtue, than determined in vice. Their irregularities appear rather to proceed from thoughtleſsneſs, than confirmed depravity. Some traces of their antient humanity may be ſtill diſcovered on different occaſions. Though petty breaches of juſtice and good order are frequent, atrocious deeds of cruelty and wickedneſs are not known. In the courſe of forty years, no perſon has been accuſed of murder: Robbery and houſe-breaking have very ſeldom been committed; and there is no inſtance of any individual, during his reſidence in the pariſh, having been convicted of ſuch crimes. Much has been ſaid of the happy influence of Sunday ſchools in other places. If there were people of wealth and influence heartily diſpoſed to ſtrengthen virtue, to encourage good behaviour, and to diſcountenance vice and irregularity, by eſtabliſhing that inſtitution here, in order to reſcue the children of diſſolute parents, from the danger of bad habits, to inſtruct them in the principles of religion, and a courſe of ſobriety and induſtry, it is probable, they might be the happy means of reſtoring and improving the morals of all the people in this populous diſtrict.

The young men of this pariſh have always ſhown a great ardour for a military life. A popular recruiting officer never comes to the place, in time of war, without making great levies. In the year 1778, above ſixty enliſted in the regiment raiſed by the Duke of Hamilton, beſides ſome who entered with other corps. The women have ſhown little leſs eagerneſs to follow the camp, a good many always going off, with every party of the military, who have been quartered here.

Eminent Men.——The late Dr William Cullen, whoſe me-

mory is ſo much and ſo juſtly celebrated, was born here; and received the firſt part of his education under Mr Briſbane, at the grammar ſchool of this town. There are people here, who remember him at ſchool; and ſaw him in girls clothes, acting the part of a ſhepherdeſs, in a Latin paſtoral. Here he alſo ſettled for ſometime as a ſurgeon; and was choſen one of the magiſtrates. Captain James Gilchriſt, of the navy, who was deſervedly accounted one of the braveſt, and moſt ſkilful naval officers, that ever Great Britain ſaw, was alſo born in this pariſh; and being at length diſabled by a wound, which he received, bravely fighting in the cauſe of his country, ſpent the latter part of his life, in the improvement of his property in this neighbourhood. Nor ought Mr John Miller, now profeſſor of law in the Univerſity of Glaſgow, to be omitted, whoſe abilities as a teacher, and whoſe merit as an author, are ſo well known to the public.

Eccleſiaſtical State.——The Duke of Hamilton is patron.—There are two miniſters. To the firſt charge is annexed, a ſtipend of 8 chalders of victual, and L. 41 : 13 : 4 in money, beſides L. 20 for the glebe, (which is now included in the Duke of Hamilton's pleaſure ground,) and, a certain ſum annually by way of rent for the miniſter's houſe and garden, there being no manſe built. The ſecond living is 6 chalders of meal, and L. 33 : 6 : 8 in money, with a free houſe and garden; but there is no glebe attached to it. The diſſenters are pretty numerous. The moſt populous ſect is that of the Relief; who pay their clergyman about L. 100 a year. There are, under his miniſtry, about 874 perſons of all ages belonging to this pariſh. The Antiburgher congregation is more widely diſperſed, the circumſtances of the people leſs affluent, and the proviſion of the clergyman more ſcanty. There are

250 people of this parish, arrived to the years of discretion, who join him. The Macmillan sect, who profess an adherence to the pure tenets of the Presbyterian reformed religion, as established in Scotland in the time of Charles I. have upwards of 60 in this parish, who attend a meeting house in the neighbourhood. The Independents, who maintain an affectionate brotherhood together, and dispense religious ordinances gratuitously by turns, without the ceremony of clerical investiture, have a society consisting of nearly 50, and a large room in the town, properly fitted up for performing divine service. There are three Anabaptists. All the rest of the inhabitants are either of the Established church, or attach themselves to no particular sect.

Schools.——There is a large hall for a grammar school; which has had, for a long time past, a good reputation; and, besides the youth of the place, a great many boarders from a distance, have been educated at it. About 22 years ago, another school-master was established to teach English, writing, arithmetic, &c. to whose salary the emoluments of precentor and session-clerk have been added; together with the interest of L. 100, left by Mr James Naismith, for the education of poor children in the parish. Ann, Duchess of Hamilton, in the beginning of this century, mortified 2000 merks Scots, under the management of the church session, for four small salaries to school-masters, in the distant villages of the parish. Two of these are still continued: the rest, from the decay of the villages, are dropt, and the money applied to other pious uses. Besides these, there are always several private schools; the teachers of which, have no other income, but the emoluments from their respective scholars.

Poor.—The regular provision for the poor of this parish is very liberal *, in addition to a variety of incidental gifts, from known and unknown hands, which are sometimes considerable. The family of Hamilton give very handsome donations; and

* The old hospital, already mentioned, supports 8 old men; 6 of whom always belong to this parish; and the annual support of each being about L. 4 : 15, makes for the six - - - - L.	28	10	0
Salary of their chaplain, generally one of the number - - - - -	1	0	0
The rent of their lodging, supposed - -	5	0	0
Mr Aikman's Hospital, 4 men, whose maintenance and cloathing, with some money from the funds, distributed among indigent householders, amount to	30	0	0
The rent of their houses and gardens, at least worth	6	0	0
Mr John Rae, and a few other well-disposed people, formerly inhabitants, mortified money to the care of the Town Council, the interest of which, appointed for the relief of poor householders, amounts to - - - - - - -	9	3	4
From the mortification of Mr John Robertson, a native of Hamilton, and sometime sheriff-clerk of Lanark, 8 poor men receive L. 3 each - -	24	0	0
Miss Christian Allan, who died in 1785, bequeathed, to the care of the church session, for behoof of the poor, L. 50, the interest of which is - -	2	10	0
Annual average of collections at the church door, &c. for the last 4 years - - - -	22	7	9
Profit arising from the palls at burials lent for the benefit of the poor, on average *per annum* - -	19	14	1
Poors rates levied, one half on land, the other on householders - - - - -	200	0	0
L.	348	6	0

and there are alſo ſeveral indigent perſons, who receive weekly penſions from the ſame quarter.

About the year 1750, the inhabitants, in order to put a ſtop to begging, and to give more regular relief to the modeſt poor, aſſeſſed themſelves in the payment of annual poors rates, the amount of which was then about L. 100. With this, and the other funds, all the poor, (then upwards of 50,) were decently ſupported, and begging, for a time, ſtrictly prohibited.—Towards the year 1770, the number of poor on the liſt was 79, and the annual amount of the rates L. 162. Claimants for public charity, however, becoming ſtill more numerous, and more clamorous, the liſt was afterwards increaſed to 115, and the annual rates to L. 230. But the heritors and church ſeſſion, who adminiſter theſe funds, alarmed at the growing burden, have become more cautious of admitting people on the liſt, and the poors rates are now reduced to about L. 200.

Beſides the common funds, for the ſupport of the poor, there are ten charitable ſocieties, formed by people of different occupations and profeſſions, for the relief of any of their reſpective members, who may fall into diſtreſs. The moſt important of theſe are the weavers; who compoſe two ſocieties, called the old and the new box. Theſe have been of conſiderable ſervice, particularly the laſt, which has eſtabliſhed very wiſe regulations, for the management of its funds and gives to each of its members, while on a bed of ſickneſs, 3s weekly, and when in a ſtate of convaleſcence, but unable to work, 2s. It will be needleſs to dwell here, on what has been frequently and very properly obſerved, reſpecting the many beneficial conſequences, that would accrue both to the public, and to individuals, if ſuch ſocieties were more univerſal. To be in the habit of contributing, in health and proſperity, a ſmall pittance, not only for relieving the wants, and ſoothing the

adverſity of friends and neighbours, but as a proviſion againſt the day of affliction, which too ſurely awaits the contributor himſelf, muſt certainly give the moſt pleaſing reflections, and tend greatly to cheriſh that honeſt pride and manly independence of mind, which enables people to be uſeful in the loweſt ſtations, and to ſtruggle ſucceſsfully with all the various difficulties of human life. This too, would be a proper field for the rich and the benevolent to exerciſe their charity. Their bounty, thus beſtowed, would alleviate the diſtreſs, and would promote the comfort of the moſt uſeful members of ſociety, without debaſing them into the abject condition of beggars. It is a melancholy conſideration, therefore, that thoſe aſſociations are ſo much diſregarded. Of all the weavers in this pariſh, there are only 60 contributors to the firſt of the above mentioned boxes, and 120 to the ſecond, ſome of whom are contributors to both, and ſome not really of the profeſſion. The greateſt part of the reſt, either waſte away their time in idleneſs, or ſpend their earnings in drinking, thoughtleſs of the evil day, and regardleſs of futurity.

Hence, notwithſtanding all the proviſions for the poor, to which, if the alms privately beſtowed, were added, the ſum would exceed L. 500 a year, the condition of many of them is very wretched; and the demands, upon the public charity, are always greater than it can ſatisfy. When the people once come to admit, that the fruits of their induſtry are unequal to their wants, they are diſpoſed to lay it aſide entirely; and every one, aggravating his own diſtreſſes, thinks himſelf entitled to a larger ſhare of the public funds than another, and is proportionally importunate for aſſiſtance. The great misfortune is, that their economy too often relaxes along with their induſtry; and the poor pittance beſtowed for providing neceſſaries, is laid out in the only luxury within their reach. The plenty and the cheapneſs of whiſky, and the great number of

houſes

houſes allowed to retail it, is an irreſiſtible temptation to people of this deſcription, and conſumes a conſiderable part of the weekly charity. What a fatal policy is it not in any government, to encourage a manufacture ſo peculiarly deſtructive, for the ſake of converting a ſmall proportion of the profit derived from it, into revenue?

Such diſpoſitions among the lower ranks occaſion alſo a great many beggars, who ſtroll about exacting contributions from the compaſſion of individuals, their demands not being ſatisfied in the diſtribution of the charitable funds. But the number of beggars, belonging to this pariſh, is trifling, compared to the crowds of vagrants of every deſcription, who ſwarm from the populous towns around, and ſpread over the country, begging, cheating, ſwindling, or ſtealing, as beſt ſuits their purpoſe. And here, as in other places, they have ſeveral infamous haunts, to which they reſort for lodging, diſpoſe of their booty, and ſpend their ſiniſter gettings in the groſſeſt riot and debauch: and, as ſoon as theſe are exhauſted, they again iſſue forth to practice every art upon the public, which unprincipled ingenuity, ſtimulated by want, can deviſe. How worthy would it not be of the generous exertions of patriotic ſpirits, to find means of reſtraining theſe inſidious depredations, and turning the activity and addreſs of vagrants to more innocent and uſeful purpoſes!

State of Property.—The whole valued rent of this pariſh, is L. 9377 Scots. The Duke of Hamilton is proprietor of more than the half, and the remainder is held of him in feu. There are nine proprietors of eſtates, from L. 400 to L. 100 of valued rent,—twenty from L. 100 to L. 20,—and a good many ſmaller properties. The Duke has his principal reſidence here; and almoſt all the other heritors of the pariſh are reſidenters in it.

Antiquities.

Antiquities and Curioſities.—Beſides the caſtle of Cadzow, already mentioned, the veſtiges of a few others are ſtill to be ſeen in the pariſh, probably the ſeats of ſome of the leſſer barons, in the middle ages; but tradition has not handed down any thing reſpecting them, which deſerves to be recorded. Near the middle of the pariſh, is a Roman tumulus, which has been of conſiderable extent. About 20 years ago, one ſide of it was broken into, and a good many urns found, containing the aſhes of human bones, ſome them accompanied with the tooth of a horſe. There was no inſcription ſeen; but ſome of the urns, which were all of baked earth, were plain, others decorated with moulding, probably to diſtinguiſh the quality of the deceaſt. The old oaks in the Duke of Hamilton's park, have always been regarded as a curioſity. They have, no doubt, been very majeſtic trees, ſome of them meaſuring upwards of 27 feet round. They ſtood irregularly at a conſiderable diſtance from one another, covering a conſiderable extent of pretty plain ground; and ſeem to be the laſt remains of thoſe antient foreſts, which, in former times, overſpread the country. They have been much diminiſhed in point of number, in the courſe of the preſent century; many of them having been cut, many having fallen down, and many of thoſe that remain, having loſt their tops and fine ſpreading boughs, are now only mutilated trunks, covered with ſhort ſcrubby branches, ſtill exhibiting the melancholy remains of their former grandeur. Among theſe venerable trees, grazed the wild cows, mentioned by naturaliſts as an untamed native breed. They ſeemed to differ in nothing from the domeſtic kind, excepting that they were all over white, with black or brown ears and muzzles; and, from their manner of life, very ſhy, and even fierce, when they had not room to fly. They were exterminated, from economical motives, about the year 1760. Here, alſo, the Duke of Hamilton has a park well

ſtocked

ſtocked with fallow deer.——Barncluith, a pleaſant little ſpot upon the bank of Avon, at a north corner of the Duke's great park, has been much reſorted to by ſtrangers. It is a houſe on the top of a bold bank, with terrace walks cut out of the rock, one under another, deſcending towards the river, ſupported by high walls, covered with fruit trees of different kinds. Evergreens of various ſhapes ſtood along theſe walks. On favourable points were built little handſome pavilions; and a jett d'eau, in the middle of a baſon, ſpouted the water to a conſiderable height. This ſpot commanded the proſpect of the fine wooded banks of Avon, riſing like a vaſt amphitheatre, with here and there ſome prominent rocky cliffs, puſhing out their bold heads, the tops of the antient oaks, ſome beautiful peeps into the open fields, and the water rolling below; ſo that every change of place furniſhed the view of new and delightful objects. Theſe works are now fallen greatly into decay; and the taſte for this artificial ſpecies of gardening having become leſs faſhionable, the place is not now held in ſo much repute. But while the proprietor, who planned and executed them, is remembered, the ſpot will always be regarded with reſpect. He was of the family of the Hamiltons of Pancaitland, a very ſtudious and learned man, particularly a great adept in mathematics, and the curious mechanic arts; and, at the ſame time, a man of great benevolence of heart. He is ſaid to have executed the works above mentioned, principally with a view to give bread to the poor, in the time of the famine, which happened towards the end of the laſt century.——The old church, which ſtood hard by the palace, was a venerable Gothic pile, ſome parts of which were highly ornamented in that taſte. It is now all pulled down, except the aiſle, which covers the family burying vault.——Where the lower part of the town formerly ſtood, is a ſquare column of ſtone, about ſix feet high, very rudely cut, without either

date or inſcription, having only upon the ſide of it a number of circles, inſcribed within one another, of a very rough ſculpture. It was probably ſet up in the antient market place, as a badge of municipal juriſdiction. Of the ſame nature, was a tall wooden poſt, with two croſs arms affixed to it, and an iron collar, for encircling the necks of offenders, called the Jougs, ſuſpended by a chain at the ſide of it, which ſtood on a ſtone pedeſtal in a public part of the preſent town *. It was called the *Trone*, and goods ſold in the public market were weighed at it. It was taken down about ten years ago, being thought an incumbrance on the ſtreet.

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—The Scottiſh dialect is ſpoken here with very little provincial peculiarity. The names of moſt places are derived from that language; but a few have a Celtic origin, ſuch as *Earnock* or *Earnogg*, the old ſon's poſſeſſion, *Darn gaber*, the houſe or village between the waters, &c.—The wild quadrupeds here are the ſame as in the neighbouring country; neither are there any uncommon birds. Eagles are ſeldom ſeen. Rooks abound greatly, and are very injurious to the huſbandman. It may be obſerved, that the bulfinch, which is ſaid to be a new bird in Scotland, is known to have hatched in this pariſh, more than forty years ago. The woodlark is frequent in this part of the country. On the approach of ſnow, great flocks of ſmall birds of the migratory ſpecies, and of vaſt variety of plumage, ſpread over the fields. They are here called *ſnow-flights*; and are ſaid to come from the Orkneys. It has been obſerved, that, in blowing weather, in ſpring and autumn, great quantities of gulls paſs this way to the weſtward, but have never been ſeen to go eaſt by the ſame rout.

Glaſgow

* The date, upon the pedeſtal, was 1595.

Glaſgow being the great mart in this country, ſervants wages, the price of labour, and the value of proviſions, &c. &c. are regulated, throughout the country by the rates there. From the nature of circumſtances, many things are a little lower here; but people being always eager to reſort to the beſt market, it is generally beſt ſupplied, and prices are often cheaper at Glaſgow.

The two principal roads, through this pariſh, were made and are upheld by turnpikes. They are generally kept in pretty good order; though, from the ſoftneſs of the ſoil, and the ſcarcity of materials, hard enough to ſtand the fatigue of the many heavy carriages which paſs, it is attended with conſiderable difficulty and expence. Nobody here entertains any doubt of the advantage of turnpike roads, ſince, at leaſt, three times as much weight can be drawn in a carriage, as was ſufficient to load it before they were made. If any objection can be made to the turnpike roads of this country, it is to the manner in which they have been laid out, being generally conducted over the ſummit of every eminence in their courſe; when with a little judgement and attention, a direction might have been found equally near, and incomparably more eaſy and convenient.

The croſs roads in this pariſh being numerous, and the ſoil ſoft, many of them are ſtill in very indifferent repair: but ſeveral of the moſt frequented have been much improved of late; and there is ſcarcely a brook in the pariſh, which has not a bridge over it, where neceſſary.

A commutation in money is now generally levied for the ſtatute work; but this, according to ſome, is a miſtaken policy. If a pariſh were divided into ſmall diſtricts, and each of them directed to work, under a proper overſeer, upon the road, in which they had moſt intereſt, the people are become ſo ſenſible of the advantage of good roads, that they

would do much more work, it is ſaid, than can be done with the commutation in the hands an undertaker, who propoſes to make profit by the job.

But this pariſh has ſtill the proſpect of being better accommodated with roads. From the new lines going on and propoſed,—from the ſpirit for enterpriſe and improvement which prevails,—from the experience obtained from former errors, it is probable, there will ſoon be eaſy and commodious acceſs in all directions, and the internal commerce of the country greatly facilitated and enlarged *.

* The preſent magiſtrates of the town, who have been in office for ſeveral years, have been, during their adminiſtration, indefatigable in their attention to the improvement of the ſtreets, which are now made as eaſy and convenient, as the ſituation can poſſibly admit.

NUMBER XVI.

PARISH OF BLANTYRE.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. MR. HENRY STEVENSON.

Origin of the Name.

THE name of the parish is evidently expressive of its local situation. The principal part of it lies on the banks of the Clyde, and is surrounded by rising grounds. The lower part is but a few feet above the level of the sea, (though it is about 30 miles distant.) From its low sheltered situation, it obtained the name of Blantyre, which, in the Gaelic language, is said to signify *a warm retreat.*

Situation and Extent.——Blantyre is situated in the county of Lanark, in the presbytery of Hamilton, and synod of Glasgow and Ayr. It is about 6 miles in length; but, at an average, only about a mile in breadth. From the church, which is placed nearly in the middle of the parish, to the banks of the Clyde, the ground is almost a plain; divided into small inclosures, surrounded with beautiful belts of planting. In the whole parish there is neither hill nor mountain.

Soil.——The soil is various. Some fields, adjacent to the church,

church, are a fine rich loam. From the church to the Clyde, towards the north-eaſt, the ſoil is in general a ſtrong deep clay; and when properly cultivated is exceeding fertile. At the northern extremity, which is ſurrounded by the Clyde, and where the banks become low, there is a flat that conſiſts chiefly of a ſandy ſoil. From the church, towards the ſouth end of the pariſh, the ſoil is clay, but more light and free, than that in the lower part; and is in general of a very poor quality. In advancing farther from the church, towards the ſouthern extremity, the ſoil becomes gradually more of a moſſy nature; and, at laſt, terminates in a deep peat moſs.

Rivers.—Blantyre is bounded on the north, and north-eaſt, for the extent of about two miles and a half, by the Clyde; which abounds with excellent ſalmon, trouts, pikes, pars, &c. The excluſive privilege of fiſhing ſalmon, belongs to the different proprietors, whoſe lands are contiguous to the river: but they are ſeldom caught in ſuch plenty, as to become any great object for the market.—A conſiderable part of the banks are covered with wood; and, from the gentle bendings of the river, they form many beautiful and romantic proſpects.——— Clyde is not navigable above Glaſgow.

Mineral Springs.—There is a mineral ſpring in this pariſh, the water of which is frequently and ſucceſsfully uſed, for ſore eyes, ſcorbutic diſorders, and a variety of other complaints. The water is ſulphureous; it is very ſtrongly impregnated, and is accounted the beſt of the kind in this part of the country. About fifty years ago, it was the common ſummer reſort of many families from Glaſgow: but from the changes of faſhion, ſo frequent in relation to ſuch objects of medical regimen, it is now almoſt totally deſerted.

Iron Mines.—In the banks of Calder-water, which divides this pariſh from Kilbride, there has, of late, been diſcovered, a vaſt quantity of iron ſtone, of an excellent quality, which is now wrought to great extent. Many different ſeams of it appear on the face of the banks, at the diſtance of a few feet from each other: and the ſeams are uſually about 6 or 7 inches thick. The ſtone is dug out, by mines driven forward into the bank. It is carried to the diſtance of about 7 miles, to a furnace erected near Glaſgow, and converted into pig iron. The iron company uſually pay the proprietors of the land, at the rate of 6d per ton, for the iron ſtone; beſides making compenſation for any damages that may be done in digging.

Figured Stones.—Many of theſe iron ſtones appear to retain the original ſhape of the wood, from which, according to the opinion of ſome naturaliſts they have been formed. Some of them retain the original form of the branch of an exotic pine; and have rows of ſmall protuberances winding round them, in an oblique direction; and ſome of them are covered with ſpines. Beſides the ſtones, which retain the original ſhape of the wood, there are others, that are only marked with the impreſſions of the bark. Theſe impreſſions are moſtly chequered, ſome on a level, and others on a concave ſurface, anſwerable to the convexity of the original trunk or branch; and theſe impreſſions on the iron ſtone are ſometimes very perfect.

Population.—The ſtate of the pariſh, with reſpect to population, as far as can be traced back, ſeems to have been nearly, for many years, the ſame. The return to Dr. Webſter, in 1755, was 496 ſouls. But in 1787, the number of inhabitants was immediately and greatly increaſed, by means of a cotton mill erected upon the Clyde. Before that period, the number

number of inhabitants above 8 years old, was about 400. The number of families, including every individual who poſſeſſed a ſeparate lodging, was 130; and, calculating at the rate of 4 to a family, the number of ſouls might be about 520. The annual average of births, for ten years preceding 1787, was 17,—of deaths, during the ſame period, 11,—and of marriages, 6. Since the year 1787, when the cotton mill began to work, the population has been making continual and rapid progreſs; and, as the machinery is not nearly completed, they are ſtill daily increaſing. The numbers at the cotton mill were not exactly aſcertained, till the 14th of March, 1791; and, at that date, they ſtood as follows:

Men, women, and children, employed in the mill	295
Barracks children *, who are alſo employed in the mill	60
Piecers to the jennies - - -	13
	368
Wives and widows employed at home in family affairs	56
Children, not of age, to be employed - -	96
	520

Thus, the number of inhabitants, in the pariſh, has been doubled,

* Theſe children are in general orphans, between 8 and 12 years of age. They are generally bound to the work by their relations, for a few years; and are fed, cloathed, and lodged by the proprietor of the mill. He has a ſchool-maſter employed in teaching them at their ſpare hours; a ſurgeon to attend them when ſick: And much praiſe is due to ſuch a guardian of youth, for his attention both to their health and education.

doubled, in the courſe of about 4 years, and may now amount to 1040 ſouls. In the mill there are, at preſent, 4096 ſpindles driven by water; and the company are ſtill greatly extending their operations. There is another very large houſe built contiguous to the mill, which is to contain 15000 ſpindles, to be driven by the hand: but only a very ſmall part of theſe machines are as yet finiſhed. A conſiderable village is now built, for the accommodation of the people employed at this work, where formerly there was not a ſingle houſe.

The employment at cotton mills, has, in general, been accounted unfavourable to health; and yet, what is ſingular, in the preſent caſe, is, that out of a great number, employed at work within the mill, only two have died ſince it was erected. Great care indeed is taken, to keep both the houſe and machinery as clean as poſſible; freſh air is carefully thrown in; and tar is burnt, to remove or counteract the noxious ſmell of the oil, that muſt neceſſarily be uſed about the machines.

Heritors.—There are at preſent 37 heritors, who pay ceſs; and of theſe, 10 do not reſide in the pariſh. The landed property has very ſeldom been transferred: for, though there are few poſſeſſed of more than a plowgate of land, and ſome who have only a few acres, yet many even of theſe ſmall poſſeſſions, have been inherited by the ſame family, for ſome hundred years. This retention of landed property, is plainly to be imputed to the induſtry, frugality, and amiable rural ſimplicity of the inhabitants. The whole pariſh conſiſts of 24 plowgates of land, each plowgate containing about 80 acres; and, for the moſt part, the proprietor occupies his own lands.

Produce.—The pariſh conſiſts, for the moſt part, of arable grounds; and oats are the crops moſt frequently raiſed. Peaſe,

few beans, barley, and wheat are alſo raiſed; but the quantity of theſe kinds of grain is but ſmall, when compared with oats. Potatoes are alſo cultivated by almoſt every family, whether of farmers or labourers, for their own ſubſiſtence; and the practice of feeding cattle with them is become pretty general. Of late, more attention begins to be paid to the potatoe crop; becauſe a ready market is found, for a conſiderable quantity, at the cotton mill.——The old Scots plow is almoſt univerſally uſed.—There are few ſheep kept in the pariſh, not much exceeding 100. Flax is ſeldom raiſed, in any greater quantity, than what the farmer thinks ſufficient for the uſe of his own family. A very conſiderable quantity of rye-graſs, and clover hay, is cultivated in the pariſh, and carried to Glaſgow, about 8 miles diſtant; where it always finds a ready market, and in general ſells at about 5d per ſtone. Conſiderable quantities of butter and cheeſe, uſed alſo to be carried to the market at Glaſgow; but there is now a great demand for theſe articles at home.

Rent of the Pariſh.——The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 1684: 11: 8 Scots: the real rent may be about L. 1400; but as the land is, for the moſt part, poſſeſſed by the proprietors, this cannot be exactly aſcertained.

Manufactures, and Price of Labour.—There are no manufactures eſtabliſhed in the pariſh, except the cotton branch already mentioned. The only tradeſmen in the place, are ſuch as find employment from the country people; except a few weavers, who are employed by manufacturers in Glaſgow.—The iron mines in the neighbourhood, together with the operations of the cotton manufacturers, have contributed greatly to raiſe the wages of labourers. Before the iron age, (as it may be here called,) overtook us, a man's wages by the day, was never above 1s; but now they are advanced to 15d and

16d.

16d. The average rate at which men-ſervants are hired by the farmer for the year, and who are maintained in the family, is from 8 to L.9: and women-ſervants uſually get from 3 to L. 4 *per annum.* The work in agriculture is, for the moſt part, carried on by hired ſervants.

Eccleſiaſtical State.——The manſe was built in 1773: but there is no record of the time, when the church was built. It bears evident marks of great antiquity; and is in a moſt deplorable condition.——Lord Blantyre is patron——The ſtipend conſiſts of 56 bolls of meal and barley, and L. 53:6:8 of money; with the addition of a manſe, and glebe of about 12 acres.

Schools.——There is only one ſchool in the pariſh, beſides the one already mentioned, at the cotton mill. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is about L. 6; but he has neither houſe nor garden belonging to the office. The number of ſcholars is uſually about 50; and the whole living may amount to about L. 20 *per annum.*

Alehouſes.——There are 8 alehouſes in the pariſh. Before the cotton and iron works found their way to us, there were only two or three alehouſes; but the increaſe of numbers, has alſo increaſed the demand for liquor. Upon the whole, however, there is very little alteration, to be obſerved, in the character and morals of the inhabitants. They are, in general, remarkably induſtrious, ſober, and contented: And from the ſmallneſs of the pariſh, as well as their peculiar circumſtances of independence, they have acquired a ſtrong ſpirit of equality, and a ſort of *eſprit du corps*, that renders them ready to unite in ſupporting their common privileges——There is no in-

ſtance can be remembered, of any perſon belonging to the pariſh, ſuffering any capital puniſhment.

Poor.——The number of the poor, on the pariſh roll, is uſually about four or five. The pariſh have a ſtock for the ſupport of the poor, amounting to about L. 200; the intereſt of which, together with the weekly collections, affords a comfortable ſupply for the indigent. All the heritors are joint managers of this fund; and alſo in appointing ſupplies to the poor, along with the miniſter and kirk-ſeſſion. The ſtated meetings for the affairs of the poor, are on the firſt Tueſday of February, and the firſt Tueſday of Auguſt. At theſe meetings, a committee is appointed, conſiſting of heritors and elders, to collect each in their turn, at the church doors, for the following half year: a treaſurer is appointed to diſtribute to the weekly penſioners; and in his hand, all the weekly collections are lodged. Occaſional ſupplies are alſo given, to relieve thoſe who fall into accidental diſtreſs.

Fuel.——The fuel commonly uſed in the pariſh, is coal; which is generally brought from Cambuſlang, at the diſtance of between 3 or 4 miles. It is ſold at the coal pit at 9d per hutch, amounting to 400 wt. two of which make an ordinary cart-load; ſo that a ton, containing five hutches, or 2000 wt. coſts 3s 9d. There are plenty of good peats in the pariſh, which are uſed for part of the fuel; but the coals, being exceedingly good, are preferred.

Antiquities.——There are few remains of antiquity beſides the ruins of the priory. A conſiderable part, of the walls of that antient building, is ſtill ſtanding. It was built on the top of a high rock, which riſes perpendicular from the

the Clyde; the walls are in a line with the brink of the precipice; and to look down from them, is indeed, to look from the pinnacle of the temple. On the top of the oppoſite bank, which is lofty and bold, ſtand the majeſtic ruins of Bothwell-caſtle: ſo that few places are to be found, affording ſuch awful monuments of the devaſtations of time; together with ſuch a romantic proſpect, formed by the bendings of the river, and the boldneſs of its woody banks.

Little account can now be found, of the origin and hiſtory of this religious eſtabliſhment. It appears from ſome antient records, that it was originally a ſort of colony, from the monaſtery at Jedburgh.——It is alſo recorded, that, "Friar Walter, of Blantyre," (probably he ſhould be ſtiled, Prior Walter,) "was one of the Scottiſh commiſſioners, appointed to negotiate the ranſom of King David Bruce, "taken priſoner in the battle of Durham, in 1346."—— The following facts, concerning the Priory, are alſo mentioned in Hope's Minor Practics, Appendix, No. 1. Chap. 2. Canon Regulars, page 420. "Blantire, in Clydeſdale, a "Priory of this order, was founded before the year 1296; "for, at that time, Frere William, Priour de Blantyre, is a "ſubſcriber to Regman's roll," Prynne, page 663. "Walter Stuart, commendator of this place, was Lord Privy "Seal, in the year 1595; and, ſhortly after, treaſurer, "upon the Maſter of Glammis's dimiſon. He was made "a peer, by the title of Lord Blantire, the 10th July, "1606; from whom is deſcended the preſent Lord Blantire."

Urns have been dug up at different times, in ſeveral parts of the pariſh; and ſome of them were found lately, in a large heap of ſtones. In the centre of the heap, ſquare ſtones were placed, ſo as to form a kind of cheſt, and the urns

urns were placed within it. They contained a kind of unctuous earthy ſubſtance; and ſome remains of bones were ſcattered around them. They are now in poſſeſſion of the College of Glaſgow. Strong impreſſions of fire, were alſo evident on ſome of the ſtones.

NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF STONEHOUSE.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES MOREHEAD.

Situation and Extent.

THE pariſh of Stonehouſe is in the county of Lanark, in the preſbytery of Hamilton, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr;—18 miles from Glaſgow,—7 and a half from Hamilton,—and nearly the ſame from Lanark. It is 5 miles in length, and, at an average, nearly 2 miles in breadth. No exact ſurvey has yet been taken of it; but, by comparing what has been ſurveyed, and what has not, it may be reaſonably ſuppoſed to contain nearly 6000 acres. Of the above, it is computed, that about 12 acres conſiſt of moſs, and about 24 of muir. All the reſt is arable, excepting the banks of the river. The ſoil, at the top of the pariſh, is light; in the middle and lower end, it is alſo light, but mixed with ſome clay. It is laid out moſtly in ſmall farms. Four or five, perhaps, may pay between 60 and L. 80 of yearly rent; but, at an average, they do not exceed 20 or L. 30.——In the centre of the pariſh, there is a very thriving village, called Stonehouſe. In the courſe of the laſt 20 years, 35 new houſes have been built; and 2 or 3 more are to be built next ſummer. Some of theſe houſes contain

tain 2, 3, 4, and even 5 families. The village is principally inhabited by weavers. A few have begun to carry on buſineſs for themſelves: but, generally ſpeaking, they are employed by manufacturers elſewhere. Some begin working the loom at nine or ten years of age. The females are remarkable for ſpinning fine. The village above is ſuppoſed to draw L. 500 annually for that article. Some years ago, there was one woman, who ſpan to the extent of ten ſpindles in the pound.

Produce.——The produce, which principally conſiſts of oats, barley, and peaſe, is, in general, more than what is neceſſary for the conſumption of the inhabitants. The ſurplus is ſent to Hamilton, Glaſgow, and Paiſley. About 12 years ago, an attempt was made to raiſe wheat; but, after repeated trials, it was found not to anſwer, and is, therefore, moſtly given up. Every farmer lays his account to raiſe 10 or 12 bolls of potatoes yearly; and to ſow about a peck, or a peck and a half of lint ſeed, for family uſes. They have no fields either of potatoes, flax, or turnip. In the middle and lower end of the pariſh, every farmer has ſome parts of his ground in rye-graſs. What they peculiarly attend to, is the dairy. It is, in general, expected, that the half, and in ſome parts the whole, of his rent ſhould be paid by the produce of the byre. They deal greatly in rearing calves for the butchers, which they ſell from 20s to 3 or L. 4 each.

Diſeaſes.—There is no diſeaſe peculiar to the pariſh. What has hitherto proved moſt fatal, is the ſmall-pox, which returns every 4 or 5 years. In 1778, 18 children were carried off in the courſe of a few weeks. Some have begun to inoculate: In every inſtance where tried, it was ſucceſsful; but the prejudices of the people againſt it are ſo ſtrong, that it is not

gaining ground. There are few inſtances of longevity. Some have attained to 90, but none, (at leaſt for theſe 30 years,) to 100 years of age.

Rivers and Mineral Springs.——The Avon, which riſes in the pariſhes of Avondale and Galſton, paſſes through a part of this diſtrict, and runs into the Clyde, not far from Hamilton.—Near the village of Stonehouſe, it has a fall which would anſwer for a cotton mill.——There is a mineral ſpring at Kittymuir, which has been found to be of ſervice in ſcorbutic diſorders. It would, probably, be more reſorted to, if ſome attention were paid to the well, and if there were better accommodations near it.

Mines.——Some years ago, there was a good coal-work in the pariſh, the property of Mr Lockhart of Caſtle-hill, which was afterwards, in a great meaſure, abandoned. Of late, different trials have been made, and it is hoped, it will again be ſet a going. The pariſh, in the mean time, has not ſuffered much, being abundantly ſupplied with coal from 3, and now 4, different coallieries in the pariſh of Dalſerf, the neareſt, ſcarcely a mile, and the fartheſt, not four from the village. At preſent, they coſt at the work, 10½d. per cart, which is more than double what they were 30 years ago. A cart is ſuppoſed to contain about 30 ſtone, Trone weight.——The pariſh abounds in lime; which has been much uſed of late, for the purpoſes of farming. It is generally ſold in ſhells, at L. 2:10 the kiln, and to the tenants of the proprietors, at L. 2:5. A kiln contains 100 bolls of ſlacked lime. In the river, and on the top of the lime ſtone, there is plenty of excellent iron ſtone; which, in all probability, will become ſoon an object of importance.—There are alſo fine quar-

ries of free ſtone, eaſy to be got at, which has been of great ſervice in the late buildings.

Population.—By a liſt taken in 1696, which ſeems to have been made out by Mr Foyer, the then miniſter, there appears to have been, at that time, 872 ſouls in the pariſh: of theſe 272 reſided in the village, and 600 in the country. The return to Dr. Webſter in 1755, was 823 ſouls. By a liſt made out by the preſent miniſter in November laſt, there were found to be 1060; of whom 593 reſided in the village, and 467 in the country. The village conſequently has increaſed 321, and the country decreaſed 133, ſince 1696. The increaſe, on the whole, in the laſt 40 years, is 237. Of the above 1060, there are,

	Males.	Females.
In the village -	263 - -	330
In the country -	222 - -	245
	485	575

Majority of females, upon the whole, is 90.

Families in the village - - -	161
——— in the country - - -	99
	360

Every family, at an average, will contain little more than four.

General Diviſion.

Farmers, who make it their buſineſs - -	56
Weavers - - - -	131
Shoe-makers - - - -	15

Maſons

Maſons	9
Wrights	6
Miners	6
Smiths	4
Different millers	6
Taylors	6
Coopers	2
Married	344
Widows and widowers	57
Under 20 years, ſuppoſed	400

Births.—It is impoſſible to aſcertain the number of births: though there is a regiſter kept, yet it cannot be depended upon. Some of the antient Diſſenters ſeem never to have regiſtered their children at all. Many of the Eſtabliſhed Church forget it. Since the late duty was impoſed, there are many who refuſe it. Some on account of the expence, and ſome from a miſtaken notion of religion. Some who now reſide in one pariſh, regiſter in another, becauſe it happened to be their former place of reſidence; and ſtrangers ſometimes regiſter in this, becauſe their children, by ſome accident, have been baptized in it. As it ſtands, the average will be found to be 25 preciſely, reckoning from the beginning of the regiſter, which was in 1696, till November 1790, there being 2275 baptiſms recorded. No regiſter appears for the years 1721, and 1722, excepting 2 at the beginning of 1721, and 4 at the end of 1722, which are not included in the above. Multiplying 91, the number of years, by 25, the number of children, the product is 2275, preciſely.

Deaths.—It is difficult to aſcertain the number of deaths Of theſe there is no regiſter kept. The only thing, that can throw any light upon it, is the account of the mortcloths,

kept by the treaſurer for the poor. But this will not be found quite ſatisfactory; becauſe ſome, who reſide in this pariſh, bury in another, and conſequently get a mortcloth from them; while ſtrangers, ſometimes, bury in this; and, ſuppoſing theſe to be equal, which it is probable they are, the matter will be uncertain, becauſe mortcloths are ſeldom required for children under two years of age. As it ſtands, the annual average for theſe laſt twenty years, will be found to be 17 and $\frac{20}{4}$.

Marriages.——There is no authentic regiſter of marriages. A liſt of proclamations, in order to marriage, is kept, both by the precentor and treaſurer for the poor. Theſe two have been compared, and found to agree. According to them, there have been, of proclamations, from the beginning of the year 1761, to the end of the year 1790, in all, 289: Of theſe 7 muſt be diſcounted, becauſe the marriages did not take place. Of the remaining 282, in 133 inſtances, both parties reſided in the pariſh;—in 75, the man reſided, but not the woman; and in 71, the woman reſided, but not the man. Theſe facts being aſcertained, every perſon will be able to ſtrike an annual average, according as his views are, in making the inquiry.

Diſſenters.—It is not eaſy to aſcertain the preciſe number of diſſenters from the Eſtabliſhed Church, principally, becauſe many ſcarcely know to what particular ſect they belong. Such heads of families, as have come to a determination on this point, are as under:

Cameronians - -	4	Preſbytery of Relief	21
Antiburghers -	5	Burghers -	5

On the ſuppoſition, that the above heads are followed by their

their families, and according to the average of families above mentioned, the number of diſſenters will be ſomewhat more than 140.

Rent, &c.——The valuation of the pariſh is L. 2721 Scots: the real rent cannot be exactly known. The heritors at preſent amount to 18. Four of theſe only have L. 100 of valuation; and none ſuch reſide in the pariſh. More than one half is the property of Mr Lockhart of Caſtle-hill; who is alſo patron.

Poor.—The ſtated poor on the liſt, in the year 1790, were 13. The expence of maintaining them amounted to L. 37 : 12; L. 4 or L. 5 more were diſtributed in, what is called, occaſional charity. The funds, for defraying the above expence, are raiſed in the following manner:

By collections, (at an average) - -	L. 14	0	0
Intereſt of L. 120 of principal ſtock - -	6	0	0
Money ariſing from mortcloths, (at an average)	4	0	0
——————from proclamations of marriage	0	8	4
	L. 24	8	3

If the above is not ſufficient, as has been the caſe for ſome years, then a ſtent is laid upon the pariſh, one half of which is paid by the heritors, according to their valuation, and the other half by the inhabitants, according to their circumſtances.—None of the pariſhioners are allowed to beg, though we are much troubled with beggars from other pariſhes.

Stipend.——The ſtipend of this pariſh is 97 bolls, 7 pecks and a half of meal, and L. 16 : 12 : 6, in money. Some years

years ago, it was paid by 60 different hands; at preſent by 42. The glebe is about 4 acres of arableground, and about an acre of paſture. At an annual average, ſtipend and glebe will amount to a little more than L. 84 ſterling. The manſe was built in the year 1761: it coſt the heritors, beſides the old manſe, valued at L. 20, to the extent of L. 153.—The church was rebuilt in the year 1772; the expence betwixt 400 and L. 500.

Prices of Proviſions.—The prices of proviſions in November, 1790, were as follows:

A boll of meal - - -	16s 6d.
Beef, per ſtone - - -	5s 6d.
Hens - - - -	1s 3d.
Eggs, by the dozen - - -	5d.
Butter, by the pound - - -	9d.
Beſt cheeſe, do. - - -	4½d.
Inferior, or ſcum, do - - -	3d.

Wages.

A man ſervant, excluſive of victuals, *per annum* - - -	L. 8	10	0
A female, do. do. - -	3	10	0
A labourer by the day, without victuals	0	1	0
In hay or harveſt - -	0	1	6or5d
Women in harveſt - -	0	1	0
Maſons - - -	0	1	0
Taylors - - - -	0	1	0

Horſes, Cows, and Carts.——The pariſh, in former times, was divided into forty ploughgates. On the ſuppoſition, that every plough has 5 horſes, young and old, 12 cows, and

3

3 carts, the amount will be 200 horſes, 480 cows, and 120 carts. The carts are always drawn by one horſe only.--There are ſome ſheep, moſtly in the upper part of the pariſh. They are ſuppoſed not to exceed 5 ſcore.

Roads and Bridges.——The roads are not in good repair; and it is not eaſy to ſay, how they can be made better. They are much hurt by the carriage of coal and lime. Materials to mend them are ill to be got. There are no turnpikes within the pariſh.———Two bridges over the Avon were both ſwept away by one flood, in the year 1771: but they were rebuilt in a year or two after,—partly by private contributions, and partly from the county funds.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The produce of the year 1782 fell ſhort of what was neceſſary, for the conſumption of the pariſh. The deficiency was made up, by ſome of the more wealthy inhabitants, who purchaſed foreign grain, and ſold it without profit.—By ſobriety, frugality, and a more diligent attention to buſineſs, the difficulties of that unfortunate ſeaſon, were got over more eaſily than could have been expected.—— The parochial ſchool-maſter has 100 merks of ſalary, which at preſent is paid by 47 different hands. His perquiſites, at an average, amount to 20s annually. The number of his ſcholars are about 50;—his wages 1s 3d. per quarter;—one third is deducted for the vacation quarter. The amount of the whole about L. 18:——his payments are ill made; and ſomething ought to be done, to make his ſituation more comfortable. He has a houſe, and ſchool-houſe allowed him by the pariſh. They were built in 1781; and coſt the heritors upwards of L. 40.--Beſides the parochial ſchool, there is one generally at the head, and another, ſometimes, at the foot of the pariſh. The expence is defrayed by the parents of the children.

There are 4 alehouſes, who have taken out a licence, all in the village. No very bad effects, on the morals of the inhabitants, have yet been felt from them; but many ſuſpect, that this will not long be the caſe.--The difference betwixt employing cottagers and hired ſervants, in agriculture, cannot be aſcertained here, few or none in the pariſh, having employed the former. —There is no jail in the pariſh; or were any of the pariſhioners in priſon, during the year 1790. Indeed there has been no juſticiary trials of any of the people of this pariſh, for theſe 30 years, one excepted, who was puniſhed by whipping.—— The people in general, are of a middle ſize;—healthy in their conſtitution;--decent in their conduct,—and, though they may have ſome real, and ſome imaginary grievances, yet they are as much contented with their ſtate, as moſt of their neighbours.

NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF LIBBERTON.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN FRASER.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, Surface, &c.

THE antient and modern name of the pariſh is Libberton *. In the old ſeſſion records, it is written ſometimes Libberton, and ſometimes Libertown. The origin or etymology of the name cannot be aſcertained, unleſs we derive it from the Latin.

This pariſh of Libberton lies in the upper ward of Clydeſdale, and belongs to the preſbytery of Biggar, and the ſynod of Lothian, and Tweedale.—The length of the pariſh, from north to ſouth, is about ſeven, and the breadth, from eaſt to weſt, about 4 miles. Its form is nearly a triangle. The face of the country, in this pariſh, exhibits ſo different an appear-

* The pariſhes of Libberton and Quothquan, were united in 1660. The name of Quothquan is now ſunk into that of Libberton; and therefore, in the following pages, they ſhall be conſidered as one pariſh, under the denomination of the pariſh of Libberton.

ance, that the eaſtern and weſtern parts of it, are a ſtriking contraſt to each other. That which lies towards the weſt, on the banks of the Clyde, is, perhaps, the moſt fertile ſpot in all the neighbourhood. Much of its fertility is, no doubt, owing to the inundations of the Clyde, which overflows the lower grounds, or, as they called in this country, the Haughs, often a dozen of times in the year.——The ſoil is a deep rich clay; and from time immemorial, has been cultivated for common crops, without receiving the ſmalleſt particle of dung. The eaſtern tract of the pariſh, is an irregular part of varied grounds. Though it be raiſed conſiderably above the level of the Clyde, yet it is not ſo high, as to deſerve the name of mountainous; being, throughout its whole extent, a waved tract of ground, covered with heath, and, in ſome places, ſuſceptible of tillage.

The air is dry and penetrating, and far from being unhealthy. The moſt prevalent diſtempers, among the people are rheumatiſms, and nervous complaints. The cold and wretched hovels, in which they live, are certainly the cauſe of the former; the low diet, which they uſe, may occaſion the latter.

Rivers.——Methven, which divides this pariſh from that of Carnwath, is divided into two branches, commonly called, the north and ſouth Methven. The north branch takes its riſe near Croſſwood-hill, the partition which divides the county of weſt Lothian, from that of Clydeſdale: the ſouth, near Garvelfoot, in the pariſh of Linton. Theſe two branches form a junction in this pariſh, within a mile and a half of the Clyde, and are a great acceſſion to the waters of that rapid river. It is here, perhaps, neceſſary to obſerve, that there is a ſmall branch of the ſouth Methven, which runs off towards the eaſt, near Garvelfoot, and dividing at Dolphington, the counties of Clydeſdale and Tweeddale, falls into the Tweed. This particular

cular circumſtance is a demonſtrative proof of the great height of this country. Both theſe rivers produce trout. Thoſe found in the Methven, are fatter, and much better, than thoſe found in the Clyde; which is, no doubt, owing to the rapidity with which the latter runs. In many deep pools of the Clyde, there are likewiſe perch and pike. The fiſh caught in theſe rivers are never brought to public market, but ſold to private families in the neighbourhood.

Hills.—The only hill, in this pariſh, is Couthboanlaw, now by corruption, called Quothquanlaw.——The late Dr M'Farlane, ſo celebrated for his knowledge in antiquities, was of opinion, that this hill derives its name from theſe two Erſe words, *Couth boan*, which, in that language, ſignify a beautiful, or ſmooth hill: And indeed, it is one of the moſt beautiful little hills, that is to be ſeen in any country. It is about 600 feet above the level of the Clyde, and is green to the very top. On this hill, the common people, to this day, point out, with much fond admiration, WALLACE's chair, where he had his abode, and held conferences with his followers, before the battle of Biggar. The chair is a large rough ſtone, ſcooped in the middle.

Population.——From the ſeſſion records, it appears, that the births in this pariſh, from April, 1683, to April, 1753, amounted exactly to 2205: the annual average of which is 31$\frac{1}{2}$. The marriages, during the ſame period, amounted to 563; the annual average of which, is a little more than 8.—The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 708 examinable perſons, or above 8 years of age *. At preſent, the males in the

* When Dr Webſter made his inquiry, the miniſter of the pa-

riſh

pariſh amount to 370; the females to 380, which makes the whole number of the inhabitants 750. Of theſe, none reſide in towns or villages, there being none in the pariſh, except that of Libberton, which ſcarcely deſerves the name of a village, as it only conſiſts of a few ſcattered huts.

From 1783, (the time when the tax, impoſed by parliament, on births and burials, commenced,) the records of this ſeſſion have been kept with great accuracy: and from them it is found, that the births, from October, 1783, to October, 1790, were 122; the annual average of which is nearly 17½. The deaths, for the ſame period, were 98; the annual average of which, is 14. The marriages for the ſame time, were 29; the annual average of which, is a little more than 4.

Of the 750 ſouls in this pariſh, there are 109 below 10; 130 from 10 to 20, 280 from 20 to 50, 199 from 50 to 70, and 22 from 70 to 100.

The number of profeſſed farmers, in the pariſh, amount to 40. But ſeveral of theſe, have only the half, and ſome only the quarter of a plough. With their children and ſervants, they amount to 198.—There are 6 apprentices in the pariſh; —100 labouring ſervants, male and female;—1 ſtudent at the Univerſity of Edinburgh;—1 ſurgeon;—the Seceders, of all denominations, amount to 98.

From the facts, which have been already ſtated, reſpecting the annual average of births, from 1683, to 1753, it appears, with all the force of demonſtration, that the population of this pariſh has decreaſed very near a half. It is evident, from the

riſh of Libberton, was in the decline of life, and totally unable to take an actual ſurvey of it. When the Doctor therefore applied to him, he ſent his examination roll, which only contained thoſe above 8 years of age. This the clerk of the pariſh, who has lived in it all his days, perfectly remembers.

the ſeſſion records, that there is an annual, and gradual decreaſe of the births and marriages, from 1753, down to the preſent time. The annual average of births, from 1683, to 1753, is 31½; ſo that the number of ſouls in this pariſh, at that time, could not be leſs than 1400. For it muſt here be obſerved, that the rule laid down of multiplying the number of births by 26, the number of deaths by 36, in order to aſcertain the population of any country, is, in ſeveral inſtances, very fallacious. The annual average of births in this pariſh, for theſe 7 years, is 17½, which, multiplied by 26, would make the inhabitants amount to little more than 450. The annual average of deaths, during the ſame period, was 14, which, multiplied by 36, would make them amount to 604. Whereas, according to the liſt, which the incumbent took of them, in the courſe of his firſt viſitation of the pariſh, they amounted to 790. And, according to that, which he took with great care, about 3 months ago, they amounted to 758.

The births from January, 1765, to January, 1775, amounted to 223; the annual average of which, is about 22. From 1775, to 1785, they amounted to 200; the annual average of which, is exactly 20. From 1785, to 1790, they amounted to 89; the annual average of which, is about 17½. From theſe facts, taken from the ſeſſion records, it appears, that the population of this pariſh is materially different, from what it was, 5, 10, and 25 years ago.

This depopulation may be attributed to the following cauſes: 1*ſt*, To the non-reſidence of gentlemen on their eſtates. When landed proprietors reſide on their eſtates, there muſt be a number of ſervants, dependants, and workmen of different kinds. Houſes would then be built, and marriages take place. Now there are 9 heritors in this pariſh, none of whom reſide in it, except two ſmall ones, of L. 30 a year. Whereas, in former times, 6 conſiderable families had their conſtant reſi-

dence

dence in it, whoſe houſes are now partly demoliſhed, partly kept by a ſervant or two. A kind of epidemical rage ſeems to have ſeized them to flock to large cities. 2*dly*, This depopulation may be attributed, to the demolition of the villages and cottages, and the letting out the lands in large farms. The village at Libberton has been a place of ſome note. Whereas it now conſiſts only of a few ſcattered huts. That of Quothquan, has likewiſe been of conſiderable extent; and now there are not much above 100 ſouls in it. The old people remember double the number of ploughs in the pariſh, that are at preſent; and the ruins of demoliſhed cottages, are to be ſeen in every corner. When a cottage falls, it is never rebuilt, becauſe the farmer is not obliged to keep it up. Since 1760, the plan, in this country, has been, to deſtroy the villages and cottages, and throw the lands into as few hands as poſſible. The evils, which muſt attend the continuance of this plan, it is not difficult to conjecture. It is not too much to ſay, that unleſs ſpeedily checked, it will depopulate the country, with an alarming rapidity.

Some defend this plan, of demoliſhing the cottages and villages, and letting out the lands in large farms, by aſſerting, that though country pariſhes be thereby depopulated, yet there is no real decreaſe of population, the people only changing the country for the town. But it ought to be conſidered, that towns never ſupply themſelves with inhabitants. The country is the nurſery of population, and large cities would ſoon decay, were they not conſtantly recruited from the country. It is a truth generally admitted, that, in large cities, fewer children come into the world, and immenſely fewer arrive at maturity, than in the country, in proportion to the number of families.

There are, at preſent in the pariſh, 125 married men, widowers

ers included, and 28 bachelors. Among the bachelors are included all above 22 years of age.

The number of inhabited houſes, is exactly 168; which makes the number of perſons, at an average, to each inhabited houſe, to be nearly $4\frac{1}{7}$.

Produce, &c.—The pariſh produces no vegetables, plants, nor trees, but what are common in Scotland. There is, indeed, very little planting in it. Though the waſte grounds are well fitted for raiſing firs, and all kinds of hard wood, yet there is no pariſh, in the upper ward of Clydeſdale, where leſs has been done to improve it in this way.——The number of horſes in the pariſh, amount to 219; black cattle to 790; the ſheep to 1149.

There are upwards of 6000 acres in the pariſh. Of theſe there are about 3500 in tillage, viz. 100 employed in raiſing barley,—30 in turnips and potatoes,—35 in flax—24 in ſown, or artificial graſſes,—1188 in paſture,—2123 in oats. All the reſt of the land may be called waſte, being fit for nothing but planting.———The pariſh ſupplies itſelf with all kinds of proviſions; and exports a conſiderable quantity of meal, butter, cheeſe, and ſome horſes and black cattle.

This pariſh has many diſadvantages. From its high ſituation, it is much expoſed to froſt, which generally ſets in very early, and is very late in going away. As it ſtands in the centre between the eaſt and weſt ſeas, it is likewiſe expoſed to the rains of both oceans, by which, the farmers often ſuffer in harveſt. Another diſadvantage ariſes from the want of ſhelter. There are few ſtrips, or clumps of planting, to ſhelter the cattle during the ſeverity of winter. The vaſt tract of waſte land in the pariſh, which at preſent is not worth 6d an acre, might be turned to great account in that way, did the landed proprietors attend to the intereſt of their families.

The

The only phyſical advantage, which it has, ariſes from the inundations of the Clyde. The overflowings of this river, depoſite a kind of ſlime over all the haughs, which generally makes them produce good crops of oats, without receiving any dung.

The general rent of the beſt arable ground is L. 1 : 5. the rent of the inferior, 10s. The rent of the farms is from L. 79 to L. 30. The number of farms, as already obſerved, is greatly diminiſhed, and will be diminiſhed more and more in the courſe of four years; that being the time when a great many of the preſent leaſes will expire. Though the people be convinced of the great advantages of incloſing, yet the pariſh is in general unincloſed. The ſoil however is, in many places, eſpecially about Libberton and Quothquan, excellently adapted for raiſing hedges, and incloſures of all kinds; and until the landed proprietors do ſomething in this way, the country will never be improved. It is to no purpoſe to ſow turnip and artificial graſſes, while the fields remain open to the inroads of all kinds of cattle during the winter.

The land-rent of the pariſh, at preſent, is exactly L. 1819. But were the lands improved, as they ought, the rental might be raiſed much higher.

Church and Stipend.--The time of building the church, is uncertain, it being very old. It was repaired in 1759. The manſe was built in 1761; and received ſome inconſiderable repairs in 1784.——In conſequence of a late augmentation, the value of the ſtipend, including the glebe, and what is allowed for providing communion elements, amount to L. 110.—Mr Lockhart of Carnwath is patron.

Poor.—The number of poor in the pariſh, is 12. The fund for their ſupport, ariſes from the voluntary collections at the church

church doors on Sabbath,—from mortcloths,—and proclamation money,——and the intereſt of L. 50, at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent.* The collections at the church doors, with the intereſt of the L. 50, &c. &c. amount to L. 17 *per annum.*—The burden of ſupporting the poor, lies entirely upon the farmers, and the other poor inhabitants in the pariſh. Though there be nine heritors, yet they never inquire into the ſtate of the poor, nor contribute one farthing for their relief.

Prices of Proviſions and Labour.——The price of all kinds of proviſion is double what it was 60 years ago. A cow, weighing 20 ſtone, might have been bought then, for L. 2:15 ſterling: a cow, of the ſame weight, will now coſt L. 5. A fatted calf, which, at that time, brought 10s 6d. will now bring L. 1:1. The price of mutton, lamb, &c. &c. is raiſed in the ſame proportion.

The wages of labourers in huſbandry, and other work, are generally 1s 2d. a day, except in the time of harveſt; then the men, when hired by the day, get 1s 6d. the women 1s. The wages of maſons a day, are 1s 10d.—that of taylors, 1s.

The wages of a ploughman, have, within theſe 5 years, riſen from L. 5:10, to L. 7; and ſome of them get L. 8:—that of a barnman, from L. 4, to L. 5:5. The wages of female ſervants, are alſo raiſed from L. 2:10, to L. 3:5.

Antiquities.——From the monuments of antiquity in the village of Libberton, there is reaſon to believe, that it has been a place of conſiderable importance in former times. On the ſouth and eaſt, it has been ſurrounded with a ſtrong dyke, or earthen mound, the foundation of which is ſtill viſible; and which ſeparates the arable, from the waſte lands.—In the village, there are likewiſe to be ſeen, the veſtiges of three large

penned vaults, which were certainly erected, as aſylums for cattle. For it is a well known fact, that while war and tumult occupied the attention of men, in this country, animal food was their principal ſupport ; and the lands that were under grain, were all bounded by earthen mounds, and divided by *run-ridge*, among the inhabitants, proportionably to their reſpective intereſts, the out fields being allotted ſolely for the uſe of their cattle. The ſtate of the times required this regulation;—for when the families of Douglas and Buccleugh were wardens of the ſouth marches, they allowed their retainers, conſtantly to commit depredations on the inhabitants of this part of the country, deſtroying their grain, carrying off their cattle, &c. ſo that, upon a ſignal given, the whole villagers, (having all one intereſt), turned out to combat their ſpoilers: And, as an aſylum for their cattle, erected theſe penned vaults; before the doors of which they always built a high wall, and, on the top of it, ſtationed men, with a quantity of large ſtones, which they threw down upon the enemy, when they attempted to get at the cattle, by breaking open the doors. Many of theſe vaults, and walls, were to be ſeen entire, ſome years ago, in this neighbourhood.

About a quarter of a mile to the ſouthward of the village of Libberton, there are likewiſe to be ſeen, the ruins of a ſtrong fortification, or camp. It ſtands on the edge of a high, and barren muir, about half a mile from the Clyde; and commands an extenſive proſpect of that river, to the ſouth and weſt. Its form, which is round, is quite diſtinct: It comprehends more than an acre of ground, and is furrounded with a double wall of earth: between the walls, there is a deep ditch, or vallum. There is no appearance of any ſtone work about it, except in the middle, which ſeems to have been coarſely paved with free-ſtone. About 300 yards to the ſouth, there is a free-ſtone quarry, out of which, theſe ſtones have been

dug,

dug, as appears from their being of the ſame grain. From the entry, which has been upon the eaſt, there was a ſtrong earthen wall, which was plowed down a few years ago; and which run to the north, and ſeparating the arable, from the waſte lands, joined the village of Libberton. Upon the ſouth, there is to be ſeen the foundation of another ſtrong earthen wall; which likewiſe divides the arable, from the waſte lands; and, running through a ſteep deſcent, joins a ſmall burn, that runs through a glen. There is no tradition, concerning this camp, that can be depended upon. Perhaps it was erected by the Picts, during the time that they were in a ſtate of hoſtility with the Scots: and this conjecture is ſupported by the following hiſtorical facts: It is well known, that the river Clyde was the diviſive line, between the two contending nations. Now, as this camp is ſtationed on the very verge of the weſtern boundary, of the kingdom of the Picts, there is every reaſon to believe, that it was erected by them. It may be added, as a further proof of its being Pictiſh, that there is to be ſeen, on the oppoſite ſide of the Clyde, at Drumalbang, about 4 miles diſtant, the veſtige of a Scots lodgement, or camp; to which they often reſorted in their frequent excurſions from Dunbritton, (Dumbarton,) their principal reſidence. It is alſo well known, that, when in danger of an attack from the Picts, they betook themſelves to the ſtrength of the hill of Tinto, which ſtands in full view, and within 2 miles of this camp. From all which, there is reaſon to believe, that this camp was erected by the Picts: But whether there has been any engagement at, or near it, hiſtory does not mention.

About 300 yards to the eaſtward of this camp, are three ſmall artificial hillocks, which have all the appearance of being *tumuli*.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.——About a quarter of a mile to the ſouthward of the village of Libberton, there are quarries of free-ſtone. Theſe ſtones are very eaſily got at; and are generally uſed in building the few houſes that are erected in the pariſh. In the eaſt part of the pariſh, there is a coal mine. It has not been wrought for theſe many years, which is a great loſs, not only to this, but to all the neighbouring pariſhes towards the eaſt, as we are obliged, for want of it to drive our coals from places at the diſtance of 12 or 15 miles.

The fuel made uſe of in the pariſh, is peat and coal. There is little, or no peat moſs here. They are moſtly brought from Carnwath; where each of the farmers, on Mr Lockhart's eſtate, have, what is called a *room*, in a large peat moſs, that lies to the ſouthward of that village. Coal is brought partly from Douglaſs, and partly from Cleugh, in the pariſh of Carnwath. Fifteen ſtone of coals, (or what the people here call a load,) coſt 5d. at Douglaſs; and at Cleugh, the ſame quantity is bought for 4d.

The number of ploughs in the pariſh may amount to 46. They are of the old Scottiſh kind, and made in a very clumſy manner.——The carts may amount to about 180.

The people in this pariſh are very economical, and far from being expenſive or luxurious for their circumſtances, except in the uſe of tobacco. Smoaking is almoſt univerſally practiſed among both men and women.

The people of this pariſh enjoy, upon the whole, a conſiderable ſhare of the comforts and advantages of life; and, from their outward appearance, they ſeem to be contented with their ſituation. The firm perſuaſion of a future ſtate is their great ſupport, in the midſt of all their poverty. The firſt way to meliorate their condition, is to give them better houſes: for at preſent, the cottages, and many, even of the farm houſes, are fitter for the habitation of beaſts, than of human beings.

Property

Property in land has not undergone many changes, as will be ſeen in the following facts: In the 11th century, this pariſh belonged entirely to two portioners, viz. the anceſtors of the preſent Lord Sommervelle, and of Mr Chancellor, of Shield-hill; both of whom came from Normandy, with William the Conqueror, in the year 1066. After the battle of Haſtings, not being provided for in England, they were ſent to Scotland, and with the concurrence of the Scottiſh king, were provided for as follows: The former, viz. Mr Sommervelle, in the baronies of Libberton, and Carnwarth. This family gradually aroſe in power and influence, and ſoon became the chief, in the upper ward of Clydeſdale. Mr Sommervelle, being dignified, with the title of Sir Thomas Sommervelle, was pitched upon, after the Battle of Durham, as one of the ſureties for the ranſom of King David II. Soon after he was farther dignified, with the title of Lord Sommervelle, which greatly increaſed the power and influence of the family. But Gilbert, the eight lord, being vain enough to entertain, for many weeks, James V. with his court, at his caſtle of Cauthalley, (now by corruption, called Caw-daily,) reduced himſelf ſo much by theſe, and other extravagancies, that he was obliged to ſell the whole eſtate to the Lords Marr and Buchan, and betook himſelf to the lands of Drum, in Lothian, which, it appears, were the patrimony of his eldeſt ſon's wife. The lords Marr and Buchan poſſeſſed it for near a century. It does not appear, however, that they made any improvements, on either the lands or villages. But there is reaſon to believe, that Lord Marr, paſſed a conſiderable part of his time in Libberton. For there is ſtill to be ſeen, within the diſtance of 300 yards of the preſent church, the veſtige of an old houſe, called Marr's walls, (probably thoſe of a hunting houſe;) and many other parts of the lands, about the village,

lage, are called, to this day, Marr's braes, Marr's dyke, &c. &c.

The common people, even point out the place, where his horſes were waſhed and watered. It ſtands at the diſtance of about 300 yards from his houſe.——Theſe two lords, about the beginning of the 17th century, ſold this great eſtate to Lord Dalziel, afterwards Earl of Carnwath, who poſſeſſed it, down to 1676, when it was purchaſed by Preſident Lockhart, at a very eaſy rate; as the arrears, non-entries, &c. went all into the bargain, and which, when recovered, reduced the price very much. It is aſſerted, by ſome, that, at the period, when this purchaſe was made, ſo great was the extent of the eſtate, that the rental then was equal to the preſent rental, L. 6000, notwithſtanding the odds of the value of money, in the courſe of 114 years.——The Lockhart family have ſold, at different times, various parts of the land, which is the reaſon that there are now ſo many heritors in the pariſh.

As was obſerved above, the founder of the preſent family of Shield-hill, came down to Scotland in the 11th century, with Mr Sommervelle, and had, for his ſhare, the barony of Shield-hill, or Cauth-boan, where he built a moſt beautiful houſe, on the lands called Road-head, about 300 yards to the ſouthward of the church of Quothquan; a moſt beautiful ſituation, having a commanding view of the Clyde, for many miles.——This family continued to flouriſh, till 1567, when the then Mr Chancellor, from a principal of loyalty, joined the Queen's party at Hamilton, and was engaged at the battle of Langſide; the particulars, and conſequences of which are ſo well known.——After the defeat of the unfortunate Mary, Regent Murray ſent out a party to demoliſh the houſes of all her adherents; and among others, they burnt down the beautiful houſe at Road-head; the veſtige of which

ſtill

ſtill remains. And here it may be remarked, her great error after the battle of Langſide, was in croſſing the Clyde. For, had ſhe remained on the weſt ſide of it, among her friends, ſhe might, with the reſt of her ſcattered army, have kept Murray, and his party, at bay, until a treaty had been made between them; and conſequently have avoided her diſmal captivity, and ignominious death in England.

There are 2 bridges in this pariſh, over the river Methven. One of them was built by the county; and the other, out of the vacant ſtipend of this pariſh, when the preſent incumbent was ſettled. —The ſtate of the roads is far from being good: they were all made by the ſtatute labour, which, for ſome years, was exacted in kind. But the heritors, not thinking that the farmers wrought ſo well as they ought, agreed to commute it at 12s the plough: and, it muſt be confeſſed, that the work is done to much better purpoſe, ſince this alteration took place. —The pariſh, however, is ſo extenſive, and the number of ploughs ſo few, that the roads will never be good, unleſs the heritors agree to be at more expence themſelves. The general opinion among the people, is, that the advantages of turnpikes, are great. There are none, however, in the pariſh, except the great road, which is juſt now making, between Peebles and Glaſgow, and which paſſes through the eaſt corner of it.

There are 3 ſchools in this pariſh;—one in Libberton, one in Quothquan, and one in White-Caſtle. The rates of teaching of the 3 ſchool-maſters, are the ſame, being 1s ſterling, a quarter, for Engliſh,—1s 6d. for writing,—and 2s for Latin, &c. &c. The ſalary of the ſchool-maſter in Libberton, is L. 8:11 ſterling; and the number of his ſcholars is about 35. The ſalary of the ſchool-maſter in Quothquan, ariſes from a mortification, and amounts to L. 2:10: the number of his ſcholars is generally about 20. The ſchoolmaſter in White-

Caſtle has no fixed ſalary; being employed by the inhabitants, in that part of the pariſh, to teach their children, merely on account of their great diſtance from the ſchools in Libberton and Quothquan.

There is only one alehouſe in the pariſh, which retails whiſky, porter, and ſmall beer. It does not appear, that it has any bad effect upon the morals of the pariſhioners; the people in this country being much leſs addicted to drinking than they were 40 years ago.

Twenty-five cottages have been pulled down, or converted into ſtables, and ſtalls, within theſe 10 years, and 3 only have been built within the ſame period. This is an additional proof of the depopulation of the pariſh.

NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF KIRKPATRICK-DURHAM.

(STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.)

By the Rev. DR. LAMONT.

Origin of the Name.

THE origin of Kirkpatrick, or Kilpatrick, is evident. It is a church, cell, or burying-place, dedicated to Patrick, the tutelary ſaint of Ireland;—a perſon, whoſe name, in antient times, ſeems to have been held in high veneration, in the ſouthern parts of Scotland. The origin of Durham is not ſo evident. It has given riſe to many ſpeculative opinions: but moſt probably it is derived from the Saxon words, *Durr*, which ſignifies, dry or barren,—and *Ham*, which denotes, a village, or the diviſion of a manor. If this derivation be juſt, Durham becomes deſcriptive of a country that is dry and barren; an appellation that is peculiarly applicable to the ſituation, ſoil, and ſurface of this particular diſtrict.

Extent and Situation.—The pariſh of Kirkpatrick-Durham is about 9 miles in length, from ſouth to north, and between 3 and 4 miles in breadth, from eaſt to weſt. It lies in the ſtewartry of Kirkcudbright, and in the preſbytery, and ſynod

of Dumfries. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Urr and Croſsmichael on the ſouth,—by Parton and Balmaclellan, on the weſt,—by Glencairn and Dunſcore, on the north,—and by Holywood and Kirkpatrick-Irongray, on the eaſt. The church is ſituated nearly in the centre betwixt Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, and New-Galloway; and is within 2 miles of the great road from Carliſle to Portpatrick.

Antiquities.——In different parts of the pariſh, there are viſible remains of circular walls and mounds, of artificial conſtruction. What theſe have been, or for what purpoſes they were erected, cannot, at this remote period, be diſtinctly aſcertained; as there is no written record, to perpetuate the memory of their origin, nor any incontrovertible tradition, to explain the uſes to which they were deſtined. Some think, that they have been Roman fortifications, and others, that they have been Druidical temples: But the general opinion is, that they have been Daniſh encampments. The impartiality of hiſtory, however, preſumes not to venture dogmatical aſſertions, on a ſubject, where the knowledge of truth, is either ſhaded by the drapery of fable, or loſt in the fallacy of conjecture.

Soil and Surface.—The upper part of the pariſh, which gradually riſes to the north, and which includes about one half of its extent, is, in a very large proportion, covered with heath. ——Its average value, for paſture, is from 1s to 2s per acre;—the grain, which is produced on ſuch ſpots as have been cultivated, is little more than ſufficient to ſupport the inhabitants. ——The chief excellence, for which it is diſtinguiſhed, is the ſtore of game, with which it abounds. Kirkpatrick moor has long been celebrated for that production; and, on the return

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of every ſhooting ſeaſon, has ever invited the keen and active ſportſmen of the neighbourhood, to enjoy their favourite amuſement, on its rough and uncultivated ſurface.--The lower part of the pariſh, which gradually declines towards the ſouth, is almoſt entirely arable. The ſoil is thin and ſandy. When excited by lime, or other ſtimulating manures, it produces rich and luxuriant crops; and the graſs, which grows upon thoſe parts of the land which are improved, is kindly and nouriſhing. The average value of the beſt cultivated land, in the lower end of the pariſh, is from L. 1 to L. 1; 10 per acre.

Agriculture and Produce.—The ſyſtem of agriculture, which takes place in Kirkpatrick-Durham, is much the ſame as that which is adopted in other pariſhes in the ſouth of Scotland: As the principles of that ſyſtem have been fully explained, in the account of thoſe pariſhes, the ſtatiſtical hiſtory of which has already been preſented to the public, it would be improper to detain the intelligent reader by unneceſſary repetitions.—— The quantity of grain, annually produced in the pariſh, cannot be preciſely aſcertained:—The reaſon is this: The improvement of land being only in its infancy, large fields, which formerly lay wild in a ſtate of nature, are every year brought into a ſtate of tillage; ſo that, upon a probable ſuppoſition, a tenth, or twelfth part of arable land, within the pariſh, which was formerly neglected, is put into a ſituation of bearing grain; and conſequently, till the whole arable land, in the diſtrict, is reduced to a ſtate of culture, it will be impoſſible to fix, with any degree of accuracy, the extent of the annual produce; becauſe the account of any one particular year, is extremely different from that of another. It is, however, proper to remark, that, even in the preſent partial ſtate of cultivation, there is much more grain produced in the pariſh,

than what is neceſſary for the maintenance of the inhabitants; and the ſurplus is ſent either to the Dumfries market, or to the manufacturing towns on the weſtern coaſt of Scotland.—Experiments have been made to raiſe wheat, barley, and rye; but the attempts have not been ſo ſucceſsful, as to induce a general imitation. The ſpecies of grain, which chiefly employs the attention, and which moſt liberally rewards the toils of the farmer, is oats; and it is highly probable, from the nature, both of the ſeaſons, and of the ſoil, that oats will remain the ſtaple grain of Galloway. Great quantities of potatoes are annually raiſed: a conſiderable proportion of them is uſed as food by the inhabitants; and what is not neceſſary, for the purpoſes of internal conſumption is either ſent to market, or employed in feeding hogs, which, by many, is conſidered as one of the moſt lucrative branches of rural attention.

Mills and Multures.——The ſpirit of agriculture, in Kirkpatrick-Durham, is conſiderably checked, and the progreſs of improvement very much retarded, by a ſevere ſervitude, laid on a great part of the pariſh, in conſequence of an aſtriction to the mill of Lochpatrick: This, after a deduction of ſeed and horſe corn, amounts to about the twelfth part of the whole crop, produced on each farm, within the limits of the aſtriction. This is a burdenſome, and moſt oppreſſive taxation: The farmers loudly complain of it; and, though their complaints are not heard, yet they ſeem to be reaſonable.—For can any propoſition be more evident than this,--that every tax, laid upon agriculture, is hoſtile to the intereſts of induſtry, and to the progreſs of improvement, and, of conſequence, muſt be ſubverſive of the public good? It is hoped, therefore, that proprietors of land, and perſons of power and influence, will be rouſed to exert themſelves, in order to procure relief both for themſelves, and their tenants, from this, and every other remaining

maining ſhackle of feudal oppreſſion: And, it is not doubted, that the liberal ſpirit of the Britiſh Legiſlature, will give countenance to any regular application, that may be made to them, for a juſt and equitable repeal of thoſe laws, which are not only burdenſome and oppreſſive to the ſubjects of the country, but even, in ſome degree, inconſiſtent with the principles of a free conſtitution, and contrary to the common rules of civilized ſociety.

Air and Climate.——The air is extremely pure and healthful. Having, at all times, a free and full circulation, its ſalubrity is ſeldom injured by noxious vapours. Comparatively ſpeaking, there is but little ſickneſs or diſeaſe in the pariſh. The inhabitants, who are naturally of a ſound conſtitution, and who meet with no remarkable occurrences to waſte their ſtrength, generally enjoy the bleſſings of life to a remote old age. There died lately in the pariſh, a woman, aged 108 years, whoſe faculties were freſh, and almoſt unimpaired to the laſt; and there are living in it, juſt now, a number of perſons on the borders of 90, who ſupport the fatigues of their reſpective employments, with an aſtoniſhing degree of ſtrength and ability, and who tell the tales of former years, with a vivacity and chearfulneſs, almoſt approaching to the gaiety of youth.

Rivers and Lakes.—The river Urr runs along the weſtern ſide of Kirkpatrick-Durham, from one end to the other. It riſes from Loch-Urr, a lake of conſiderable magnitude on the confines of Balmaclellan, and, after a winding courſe of about 20 miles, diſcharges itſelf into the Solway Firth.——The fiſh, which are moſt frequently found in the Urr, are ſalmon, ſea trout, burn trout, and pike.——There are 4 large lakes in the pariſh, and 5 brooks, or burns, which, riſing from diffe-

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rent ſources, and running in different directions, empty themſelves at laſt into the Urr.

Number and Occupations of the Inhabitants.—The population of Kirkpatrick-Durham, in former times, cannot be fixed by any certain rule, as, from time immemorial, there has been no parochial regiſter of births, baptiſms, or burials. The return to Dr Webſter, was 699 ſouls. The preſent computation is about 1000: Of theſe, nearly one half are males, and the other half females.

Dwelling-houſes	210	Blackſmiths	4
Heritors	36	Taylors	8
Heritors reſident	15	Shoemakers	5
Clergyman	1	Millers	2
School maſter	1	Coopers	3
Schoolmaſter's aſſiſtant	1	Butcher	1
Farmers or tenants	69	Baker	1
Maſons	14	Dancing-maſter	1
Weavers	13	Shop-keepers	3
Joiners	6	Inn-keepers	7

The population of Kirkpatrick-Durham, for the laſt 10 years, has increaſed with ſurpriſing rapidity;—and within the laſt 20 years, may be ſuppoſed, without any great deviation from probability, to have been doubled.

Cauſes of Population.—The increaſed population of the pariſh, is principally owing to the three following cauſes: 1. A public and moſt beneficial road, about 15 or 16 years ago, was made between the church of Kirkpatrick-Durham, and the Dub of Haſs, a harbour on the Urr, nearly where that river enters the Solway Firth; by which, a communication has been

been opened with the north of England, whence lime, that great ſource of improvement, has been imported; and thus, a ſpirit of agriculture having been excited, it has given employment to a great number of labourers, and artificers of different deſcriptions. 2. The proprietors of land, who were formerly accuſtomed to let whole eſtates to one tenant, for the purpoſe of paſture, (a practice which tended very much to depopulate the country, and to produce continual emigration,) have of late years been induced to divide their property into ſmaller poſſeſſions, and by that means, have greatly encreaſed the number of tenants. 3. A village has lately been erected in the vicinity of the church, which, though projected only about 7 or 8 years ago, has advanced ſo rapidly, that there are about 50 dwelling-houſes already built, and nearly as many feued, which, it is expected, will be built in the courſe of 2 or 3 years. This village, though as yet but in its infancy, has given a livelineſs and animation to the place, formerly unknown in that part of the country; and has made a very conſiderable addition to the number of the inhabitants. But, as villages will always become nurſeries of diſſipation and profligacy, when the inhabitants are idle, plans have been formed to give them honeſt, and creditable employment. In the courſe of the laſt year, the three following ſocieties, or copartneries, were eſtabliſhed: 1. A ſociety for carrying on a cotton manufactory, conſiſting of 6 members, whoſe operations were commenced on a capital of L. 120, or L. 20 each ſhare. 2. A ſociety for carrying on an woollen manufactory. This ſociety conſiſts of 5 members, and begins its operations on a capital of L. 100, or L. 20 each ſhare. 3. A ſociety of trade and commerce: This ſociety conſiſts of 80 members; and begins its operations upon the ſmall capital of 80 guineas, or 1 guinea each ſhare.

Theſe ſocieties have their reſpective regulations, drawn up, with as much care and attention as poſſible, to prevent error or

fraud

fraud, and theſe are ſubſcribed by all the members. The annual profits which ariſe from theſe different eſtabliſhments, are propoſed, in a great meaſure, to be added to the original ſtock, and thus, from ſmall beginnings, to advance by humble and progreſſive ſteps to ſuch a degree of importance, as the ſituation and circumſtances of the country will permit: And though the ſmallneſs of the reſpective capitals, may excite, in ſome perſons, the idea of inſignificance, yet as the plans are evidently calculated to promote induſtry,—to give employment to the young,—and to advance, though perhaps in a ſmall degree, the good of the country, they cannot fail to merit the approbation of every honeſt and virtuous citizen.

General State of the Pariſh.—The valuation of the pariſh is L. 3500 Scots: the rental about L. 3000 ſterling.—The king is patron.—Dr Lamont is the preſent incumbent. The manſe and offices, which were built about 15 years ago, and the church, which was erected about 40 years ago, are all in a ſtate of complete repair. The eccleſiaſtical benefice, including ſtipend, glebe, &c. is worth L. 110 ſterling, *per annum.*—The ſchool-maſter's income, may be computed at L. 30 *per annum*; as, beſides the legal ſalary, which is about L. 11, there is a free houſe, and the intereſt of near L. 300 ſterling of mortification.

State of the Poor, and their Proviſions.——There are few poor perſons in the pariſh. Such as belong to that claſs, are ſupported by weekly collections at the church, and the intereſt of a ſmall fund, ſaved out of the former collections. A few months ago, a ſociety of a charitable complexion, was eſtabliſhed in the pariſh. The appellation which it has aſſumed, is, *The Sympathetic Society of Kirkpatrick-Durham*; and the place where it meets, is at the village before deſcribed. The

intention of this ſociety is to provide a ſource of relief for the ſick, and the old, for widows, and orphans. The ſyſtem on which the ſociety proceeds, is this;—every member, at his entrance, pays down 2s 6d.--and, as long as he continues a member, he gives in 6d. every month, which is added to the general ſtock. This money, under fixed and public regulations, is diſtributed by the office-bearers of the ſociety, to ſuch as are found to be proper objects of relief; and the office-bearers, who are annually elected, are reſponſible for their management, during the continuance of their office. Societies of this deſcription are becoming frequent in different parts of the country, and they ſeem to deſerve encouragement;—becauſe the delicacy of the human feelings will be leſs hurt, when ſupplies are received from a ſource of this kind, than when received from the ordinary ſources of charity: and likewiſe they will tend, in a great meaſure, to ſuperſede, at leaſt in this part of the iſland, the neceſſity of other charitable inſtitutions; and to prevent the exiſtence of thoſe heavy taxes for the relief of the poor, which are ſo much, and, on ſome accounts, perhaps, ſo juſtly complained of, in the ſouthern part of the united kingdom.

Fair and Races.—There is an annual fair in the pariſh, on the laſt Thurſday of March. It is held in the village before mentioned; and in the afternoon, when the buſineſs of the day is moſtly concluded, foot races, and other diverſions, are exhibited, for the entertainment of thoſe who chuſe to attend them. This fair has increaſed moſt remarkably for the laſt 5 years; and if the manufactories, which are begun this year, ſhould have any tolerable degree of ſucceſs, it is probable that they will ſtill increaſe more and more. About 4 years ago, a courſe was prepared, in a field adjoining to the village, for horſe races, which have regularly taken place every year ſince

their commencement, and are propoſed to be continued annually in all time coming. Theſe races have given a wonderful degree of publicity to the place, and have been the means of collecting great numbers of ſpectators: At the laſt races, the perſons preſent were computed to be not fewer than 8000. They are attended by the nobility and gentry of the neighbouring diſtricts of Dumfries and Galloway; and the ſports of the day are always concluded by a ball in the evening, which is held in an aſſembly-room, lately built in the village; that is finiſhed in a ſtyle of elegance and accommodation, which excites the aſtoniſhment of ſtrangers.

Inns.—There are 7 inns, or alehouſes in the pariſh, which are ſaid to be very well frequented; and which, it is believed, produce, in this pariſh, much the ſame effects as they do in other pariſhes;—that is, a mixture of good and evil: on one hand, they are productive of good, by affording entertainment to the traveller, and accommodation to thoſe who have occaſion to meet, upon private or public buſineſs;—and, on the other hand, they are productive of evil, by giving opportunity to the idle and diſſipated, to indulge themſelves in practices, which are but little connected with either the temporal or ſpiritual intereſts of ſociety.

Roads.——A road from Kirkcudbright to Edinburgh, and another from New Galloway to Dumfries, croſs each other, at right angles, at the entry to the village of Kirkpatrick-Durham. Theſe roads have not hitherto been much attended to; but the high expediency, of having them put into proper repair, has of late attracted the notice of the gentlemen of the county; and committees of the commiſſioners of ſupply, and juſtices of the peace, have been appointed, to fix the proper lines for theſe roads, and to get them made as ſoon as poſſible. When pro-

perly finiſhed, they will be of ſingular advantage, not only to the pariſh of Kirkpatrick-Durham, but alſo to the county at large;—as, in travelling from Kirkcudbright to Edinburgh, the road over the moor, will be at leaſt 12 miles ſhorter, than that which goes by Dumfries and Moffat;—and farther, as it will open up an eaſy and beneficial communication, betwixt the lower part of the ſtewartry of Kirkcudbright, and the upper part of the ſhire of Nithſdale, by which corn and meal may be conveniently taken, from the ſtewartry, to Sanquhar, and the country around it;—and coals from Sanquhar, and limeſtone from Cloſeburn, or Barjarg, may be brought into the ſtewartry. This country is evidently only in the infancy of improvement; but a little attention and expence, properly applied, might ſoon bring it into a ſituation, equally advantageous to the intereſts of ſociety, and honourable to thoſe, whoſe public ſpirit induces them, by encouraging the exertions, and rewarding the induſtry of their countrymen, to promote the general benefit of the community.

Import and Export.—The articles generally exported from the pariſh, not including ſheep, horſes, or black cattle, which, at the proper ſeaſons, are ſent to different markets, are oats, barley, oat-meal, potatoes, and wool. The articles imported into the pariſh, are lime, coals, ſtone-ware, and thoſe goods of all kinds which are retailed by the ſhop-keepers.

Fuel.—The gentlemen, who reſide in the pariſh, generally burn coals, which they get from Sanquhar, Dalmellington, or Whitehaven. The ſmiths get the coals, neceſſary for the purpoſe of the forge, from Sanquhar, or Dalmellington. The other inhabitants uſe peats; of which there is ſuch great abundance in Kirkpatrick-Durham, that the neighbouring pariſhes of Urr and Croſsmichael, receive conſiderable ſupplies

from it every year. When once the roads above mentioned are made, peats will become of leſs value, and coals will probably be uſed, (at leaſt in part,) by almoſt all the families in the pariſh.

Price of Proviſions.—The prices of grain and meal are very mutable; but in general, the price of meal is from 1s 6d. to 2s per ſtone:--butter about 9d per pound;--cheeſe about 4d;--beef and mutton about 3d:—fowls from 8d to 1s. each, according to their weight or fatneſs;—and eggs 3d, or ſometimes 4d per dozen. The prices, of all the articles of conſumption, have riſen greatly within the laſt 10 years; and are expected to riſe ſtill higher, in proportion as the country becomes richer, more populous, and more cultivated.

Price of Labour.——The price of labour here is very high. The wages of an experienced man-ſervant, for the year, are not leſs than 7 or L. 8. The wages of an experienced woman-ſervant, for the year, from L. 2 : 10, to L. 4. The wages of a harveſt-labourer, are from L. 1 : 5 to L. 1 : 10. of a day-labourer, 1s 3d. in ſummer, and 1s. in winter; of a maſon, from 1s 8d. to 2s.

The Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—The eccleſiaſtical affairs of this pariſh, as in every other pariſh in Scotland, are under the direction of the kirk-ſeſſion. This court, anxious to regulate its proceedings, by a ſtrict regard to law, juſtice, expediency, and decorum, never indulges a ſpirit of inquiſitorial inveſtigation, or perplexes itſelf with a train of idle or vexatious proceſſes. There is no diſſenting meeting-houſe of any denomination in the pariſh. There are a few Cameronians, and a few Seceders in it; but liberty of conſcience, and the unqueſtionable right, which every man has to chuſe his own

religion,

religion, are principles ſo well underſtood, that few diſturbances ariſe from the turbulence of faction, or the ſtrife of controverſy. Though a religious ſect, called Buchanites, reſided for ſometime in the pariſh, yet that circumſtance did not produce one inſtance of apoſtacy from the Eſtabliſhed Church. In ſhort, the wildneſs of ſuperſtition, and the bigotry of fanaticiſm are giving place to liberal ſentiment, and rational religion:—and every good Chriſtian beholds with pleaſure, the dictates of reaſon, and the maxims of morality, happily connecting themſelves with the doctrines of faith, and the duties of devotion.

NUMBER

NUMBER XX.

PARISH OF NEWTON UPON AYR.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

By the Rev. MR. PEEBLES.

Origin of the Name.

IN the charters granted to this burgh, Newton, is called *Nova villa de*, or more commonly *Super Air*. It is now generally known, by the name of Newton upon Ayr. It evidently derives that appellation, from its vicinity to the adjacent royal borough. Though built at a later period, it appears, that Newton originally poſſeſſed, as it ſtill does, diſtinct and independent privileges, and hence it is called, not the *Newton of Ayr*, but Newton *upon* the banks of the river of that name.

Situation and Extent.—Newton lies in the county, preſbytery, and ſynod of Ayr. It was at firſt included in the pariſh of Preſtick, but was erected into a ſeparate pariſh in 1779. Its extent is very inconſiderable, not above a mile and a half in length, and a mile in breadth. It is bounded by the pariſhes of Preſtick and St Quivox, and, in every other quarter by the river Ayr, and the ſea.

The Burgh.—Newton is a burgh of barony, or regality, holding

holding directly of the king. By whom it was erected, is uncertain, as the original charters are loſt; but tradition ſays, that Robert I. who, in his old age, was ſeized with a ſcrophulous, or leprous diſorder, granted Newton and Preſtick the privileges they now enjoy, in conſideration of the kindneſs ſhown him upon the occaſion of his illneſs. The ſame king, it is alſo ſaid, endowed an hoſpital for old infirm people, called *King's Caſe*, which ſtill exiſts, and is ſituated near the boundary of this pariſh.——The oldeſt paper in the cuſtody of the community of Newton, is dated in 1574, and contains a ſhort precept, directed to the two baillies of the burgh, empowering them to exerciſe authority in the town; but there is no ſignature affixed to it. All the privileges, formerly given to the borough, were renewed by James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England, by a charter, dated the 24th of September 1595; and another charter, to the ſame effect, was granted, about 5 years after.

In theſe charters, no mention is made of the internal regulations of the burgh; but from antient and conſtant uſage, its conſtitution has acquired certain peculiarities. The number of freemen or burgeſſes, is limited to 48, which compoſe the community. Each of theſe freemen poſſeſſes, what is called, a *lot* or *freedom*, containing about 4 acres of arable land; beſides the common, on which the burgeſſes have an excluſive right to paſture their cattle. No houſes are annexed to theſe freedoms; but every burgeſs muſt reſide in the burgh, or poſſeſs a houſe as his property, which he may rent to any of the inhabitants. The community meet every two years to elect their magiſtrates; and, at this election every freeman has a vote. They chooſe two baillies, one treaſurer, and ſix counſellors, who have the management of every thing belonging to the burgh; but on urgent occaſions, they call meetings of the community. Of late, little or nothing has been done without

taking

taking the ſenſe of the freemen. This method, however, on account of their numbers, is ſometimes a hindrance to buſineſs. The accounts of the treaſurer are open to the inſpection of every freeman, and he is accountable to the community at large. The right of ſucceſſion to their freedoms is limited. A ſon ſucceeds to his father; and a widow, not having a ſon, enjoys the property of her huſband as long as ſhe lives. But as the female line is excluded, the lots or freedoms frequently revert to the town, who diſpoſe of them to the moſt induſtrious inhabitants of the place, on their advancing a certain ſum of money, which is placed in the public fund. Each freedom is valued at L. 25, though none have given ſo much for it. The common revenue of the burgh, excluſive of theſe freedoms, is ſmall. It ariſes from certain feu duties; the rent of a mill, a ropework, ſome carpenters yards, and other ſmall properties, which produce about L. 60 *per annum*; but of late years, they have derived conſiderable profit from the coal works in their eſtate. This fund, however, is precarious, and uncertain.

The Town,—its Grounds, and Surface.—The town principally conſiſts of one large ſtreet, about 680 yards in length, and about 80 feet in breadth. It is unfortunately incumbered near the bridge, with a mill, &c. the removal of which, would be a great convenience and improvement. There are three other ſtreets in the pariſh, but their extent is not great. In that part of it, called Garden-ſtreet, there formerly ſtood a large dwelling-houſe, denominated Newtonca-ſtle, which was, for a long time, the property of the Wallaces of Craigie; but now ſome part of the wall, which incloſed the garden, alone remains. Thirty houſes have been built in the town within theſe thirteen years; but ten of them on old foundations.

The

The greateſt part of the ground, belonging to the community, is a dead level, lying to the eaſt, and north-eaſt of the town.——The ſoil is a light blowing ſand, ſo that the land, along the coaſt to the north-eaſt, wears a gloomy appearance. It might be meliorated, by rearing plantations of Scots fir, and of the larix, but, above all, of the pineaſter, which is called the maritime pine, from its thriving ſo near the ſea. No durable incloſures can be made but at a great expence. The more inland part is rather of a better ſoil, with a ſtratum of moſs on the ſurface. It was once a moraſs, but was drained many years ago at ſome expence. By this drain, the water is conveyed, that ſerves the mill, belonging to the community.—A plan of all their grounds was drawn up ſometime ago by the Town-Council; and another was lately executed by the company, who rent their coal. The arable ground conſiſts of above 200 acres, and the common about 150. The whole is valued in the ceſs-books at L. 117 Scots, and the property is eſtimated to be worth in all L. 4000 ſterling. From the nature of the ſoil, which is moſtly a bed of blowing ſand, to a conſiderable depth, the ground is far from being fertile; it requires conſtant manuring to render it moderately productive. The beſt and moſt profitable crop is rye-graſs and clover. Oats and bear are the grains commonly ſown. The ſeed-time for oats, is from the middle of March to the middle of April: and that for barley, from the 20th of April, to the 25th of May. It is thought, that the inhabitants ſow their grain much too late. Rye is ſometimes cultivated with advantage; but this crop impoveriſhes the ground.——Sea-weed is found to anſwer as manure; but the quantity caſt on the ſhore is not great.——The ſoil, in tolerable ſeaſons, produces excellent potatoes.——The whole pariſh is open and unſheltered. No a tree to be found, and no thorn hedges of any growth, owing to the violence of the weſterly winds, which often blow

ſeverely on this coaſt, during the winter ſeaſon. The property of the borough, however, might be much improved, and its value greatly increaſed.——The only public road, is the high way leading through Preſtick, to Kilmarnock and Glaſgow, which is always kept in tolerable repair. On this road there are two turnpikes within the pariſh; one of which rents at L. 100, and the other at L. 285 *per annum*.

Population of the Pariſh.—Not above a century ago, Newton contained few inhabitants; probably from 300 to 400. Within the laſt 40 years, the number has greatly increaſed. This increaſe was chiefly owing to an extenſive herring fiſhery, at that time, carried on along this coaſt, particularly near the mouth of the river, which continued upwards of 15 years.——When the coalleries on the Newton and Blackhouſe grounds began, the number of the inhabitants ſtill increaſed. In the year 1778, when the preſent incumbent made his firſt parochial viſitation, the number from 7 years of age, and upwards, was 1200; and that of ſouls, 1600. Since that time, no enumeration of ſouls hath been taken. For ſome years afterwards, the number rather decreaſed, owing to the failure of the coal-works. But ſince theſe have been reſumed, which was about 5 years ago, the number has been increaſing. At the laſt viſitation, in ſummer, 1790, there were found 1350 perſons, from 7 years and upwards: Of theſe, 610 were males, and 740 females; the number of families amounting to 380; the number of ſouls to about 1750.——The following is a ſtatement of the births and marriages, for the laſt 10 years:

Abſtract

Abſtract of Births and Marriages.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.
1781	46	10
1782	53	11
1783	40	13
1784	44	7
1785	40	6
1786	36	20
1787	43	13
1788	57	20
1789	48	12
1790	58	17
	465	129

From the above ſtatement, the number of births, at an average, amounts to above 46, and of marriages, about 13 annually. No exact account can be given of the number of deaths, as no proper burial ground has been allotted for the uſe of the inhabitants: the greateſt part burying in Preſtick or Ayr, in St Quivox, and the burying ground belonging to the Seceding meeting-houſe, in the pariſh of St Quivox. Burial-ground is much needed; which the community might provide at a ſmall expence, by incloſing a part of their waſte land, in the vicinity of the town. The number of deaths is ſuppoſed to amount to 30, annually.—The whole of the inhabitants belong to the Eſtabliſhed Church, a few families excepted, (about 12 in all,) who are moſtly of the ſect, called the Antiburgher Seceders.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—The next article, that de-

ſerves attention, is, the erection of Newton into a ſeparate pariſh. The borough lying at the diſtance of 3 miles from Monkton, formerly the pariſh church, where the inhabitants had little or no accommodation, the community, from the funds of the town, generouſly built the preſent houſe for public worſhip, in the year 1777, which was at firſt eſtabliſhed with conſent of the preſbytery, on the footing of a chapel of eaſe. Finding this plan attended with ſome diſadvantages, the community, in the year 1778, applied to the Lords Commiſſioners for plantation of kirks, and valuation of tiends, to have their town disjoined from the united pariſhes of Monkton and Preſtick, and erected into a ſeparate pariſh. In conſequence of this application, they obtained a decreet for that purpoſe, in 1779; having previouſly purchaſed the right of patronage to their church, from the patrons of the united pariſhes of Monkton and Preſtick. By the above decreet, it is eſtabliſhed, that the community ſhall chooſe, every year, 13 of their number to manage the ſecular affairs of the church, who are ſtyled delegates. When a vacancy takes place, theſe 13 delegates have the ſole power of electing a paſtor, and of granting a preſentation, with this proviſo, that 9 of the 13 muſt be unanimous in the choice.

The ſtipend, at firſt, amounted only to L 65; but it has ſince received an addition of L. 10 *per annum*, in lieu of the coal below the glebe. In 1780, the town granted a glebe of $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres; part of which is now occupied by the manſe and garden. The ground being poor, and of a light ſand, it rented, before the manſe was built, only at 5 guineas *per annum*, though in the vicinity of a populous place. All that is allowed for graſs, is the liberty of keeping a cow, and her follower, on the common belonging to the town. The glebe is not well incloſed, which leſſens its value. The melioration of glebes by incloſing, which has been under the conſideration of the

the General Aſſembly, deſerves every poſſible encouragement. —A manſe was firſt built in 1787.——A houſe is alſo appropriated for the pariſh ſchool. The number of ſcholars that attend it, is from 40 to 50. The wages are 2s per quarter for Engliſh; 2s 6d for writing; and 3s for arithmetic. There are ſome private ſchools in the town; and a few of the inhabitants ſend their children to the ſchools of Ayr, being almoſt equally near.

Poor of the Pariſh.—Owing to the want of manufactures of every kind, and to the conſtant influx of beggars from Ireland, few places, in proportion to their extent, are more diſtreſſed with poor than this pariſh. Many of them, indeed, who reſide only a ſhort time in the place, can lay no legal claim to ſupplies from the kirk-ſeſſion, but they are ſtill a burden to the inhabitants, by their begging from door to door. The number of monthly penſioners is daily increaſing, while the only fund, to be diſtributed among them, is ſmall and precarious. There is no fund indeed, for the purpoſe, but what ariſes from collections at the church doors, on Sundays, and ſacramental occaſions, amounting in whole to L. 50 *per annum.* At preſent there are 18 penſioners on the poors roll, each of which receives from 2s to 4s 6d per month; beſides others who are ſupplied occaſionally. No ſtent or tax has been laid on the inhabitants for the ſupport of the poor; but if their demands continue to increaſe, as they have done for ſeveral years paſt, that meaſure will ſoon become unavoidable. Attempts have often been made to eſtabliſh regulations, concerning the poor in this part of the country, but, from various cauſes, they have proved unſucceſsful.

Coal.——A conſiderable quantity of coal is found in the grounds belonging to the community, and has been wrought for

for many years. It was rented from the town, at L. 250 *per annum*; but the work was abandoned about 10 years ago, and the leaſe was conſequently broken. It was reſumed in 1786, by a company of reſpectable gentlemen at Edinburgh, and has ever ſince been carried on with ſucceſs. The tackſmen pay a duty of 6d. to the town for every tun they raiſe. The firſt 3 or 4 years, the town's profits amounted to above L. 300 *per annum*, which makes the number of tuns above 1200 yearly, but, for the two laſt years, the produce has not been ſo conſiderable. —The greateſt part of the coal is ſhipped for Ireland.—The preſent company, at ſome expence, have made a waggon way from the pits to the harbour, the road reaching to the key, which renders it exceedingly convenient for loading veſſels.—The price of the coal is 5s 6d. per tun, each tun weighing 24 cwt. The quantity of water in the pits is ſo conſiderable, that it was found neceſſary to erect a large ſteam engine. The pumps are of 14 inches bore; and the quantity of water diſcharged is 36 gallons at each ſtroke, the ſtroke being repeated about ten times in the minute, or 360 gallons in the minute. This diſcharge continues 20 hours in the 24.—There are two ſeams of coal, about 4 feet thick each, the upper ſeam is 30 fathoms deep from the ſurface; the greateſt part of which near the town, is already wrought. The lower ſeam, which is 20 fathoms deeper than the upper, is ſtill untouched. No probable conjecture has been formed, what quantity of coals remains in the grounds of the community. There is another coal pit in the pariſh, belonging to a private individual, wrought by the above tackſmen, for which, they paya duty of 10d per tun; but it is of ſmall extent, and will ſoon be exhauſted. The coal in the Blackhouſe grounds, in the neighbourbourhood, being in the pariſh of St Quivox, comes not within the limits of this deſcription.

Harbour.

Harbour.—Newton upon Ayr is a ſea-port town; the north eaſt ſide of the river, lying in the pariſh, which, with the other ſide in the pariſh of Ayr, forms the harbour.—The town, like that of Ayr, is ſituated at a ſmall diſtance above the place where the veſſels ly.——A few houſes, of late, have been built nearer the quay.--The entrance to the harbour has always been precarious, by reaſon of a bank at the mouth of the river, formed chiefly by the ſand that is carried down the river by land floods; of late years, the acceſs has been ſtill more difficult. The bed of the river is narrow, and the depth of water, at ſpring tides, not above 12 feet; ſo that veſſels, exceeding 140 tons, regiſter burden, cannot be brought over the bar.—In December, 1789, conſiderable damage was done to the ſhipping of this place: no leſs a number than 12 veſſels, in one night, were ſtranded, ſome to the ſouth, and others to the north of the harbour; —one of them was totally wrecked, and all the hands in it periſhed: ſeveral men, on board the other veſſels, at the ſame time, loſt their lives. This deplorable calamity pointed out the neceſſity of erecting a light-houſe. The deſign was accordingly carried into execution, by the gentlemen who rent the coal belong the community. At their own expence, they erected, laſt year, two reflecting lights, both of which ſtand on the north-eaſt ſide of the harbour, in this pariſh. A ſmall duty is paid by each veſſel for maintaining them *.

Though

* The following directions are to be obſerved, by veſſels coming into the harbour at any time of the night: "1ſt, One of the lights "continues burning all night; the other is lighted at half flood, "and continues burning till half ebb. 2d, Both lights muſt be "brought under one, which brings the veſſels into the right chan-"nel of beſt water, over the bar. The bearance of the lights "coming in by the compaſs, is S. E. by E. half E. 3d, Veſſels "drawing

Though theſe lights were only erected in October, 1790, they have already been found very beneficial. The greateſt attention has been paid to them, ſo that no accidents have happened through neglect.

The principal trade carried on at preſent, in the harbour, is the exportation of coal. For four years paſt, above 300 veſſels have been annually loaded with coal, which go to Dublin, Belfaſt, Learne, and other places in Ireland. A few veſſels are alſo employed in bringing fir in logs, and plank, from Memel, and other parts in the Eaſt ſeas.—Since the annexation of the Iſle of Man to the Crown, and particularly ſince the late acts of parliament concerning ſmuggling, any ſpecies of illicit trade is now little practiſed in this, or in any other part of the neighbourhood.——There are two packet boats to Greenock, one to Liverpool, and ſometimes one goes to Campbleton. No regular ſtated communication has hitherto been formed between this port and London.

Ship building and Ropework.—For many years paſt, ſhip building has been carried on at this harbour,—but it is only of late, that this branch has met with any particular encouragement. By the activity and diligence of ſome individuals in the pariſh, a number of veſſels have been conſtructed, and the buſineſs ſeems to proceed with ſpirit and vigour. It is carried on chiefly on this ſide of the river, as affording many more conveniences than the other. Fifty hands are employed in this branch of buſineſs, whoſe wages are from 20d to 22d per day.——Oak wood is brought from England and Wales, fir from Dantzick: the

" drawing 7 feet water may make for the bar, as ſoon as the ſe-
" cond lamp is lighted. 4th, A flag is hoiſted in the day-time,
" at half flood, and continues till half ebb."

the extent of the trade, at this time, will be about L. 5000 *per annum.*

The only rope-work in the neighbourhood is on this ſide of the river. Some years ago, little was done in this line; but it is now beginning to revive. Ten hands are employed in manufacturing ropes. The extent of the buſineſs is from L. 1500, to L. 2000 *per annum.*——The hemp is imported from Peterſburgh.

Fiſheries.——A ſalmon fiſhing is carried on at the mouth of the river, and along the coaſt, as far as the pariſh extends, to the northward. This fiſhing, it is ſaid, originally belonged to the burgh of Newton; which is the more probable, as fiſheries are particularly mentioned in their charter: but it was purchaſed from them, or otherwiſe got poſſeſſion of, by the Wallaces of Craigie, who retained it in their hands till within theſe few years, when the eſtate was ſold. It was then purchaſed by a ſociety of writers or attornies, in the town of Ayr, who paid L. 1100 ſterling, for it; and now it rents at L. 80 *per annum.*———Four boats are employed in this fiſhing, and four men to each boat; their wages is 1s per day.

White fiſh, haddocks, cod, and ling, with a few mackarel, flounders, and lobſters, are taken in this bay. This fiſhing is carried on by ſome of the natives of the town, but chiefly by a ſet of fiſhers, who, within theſe 20 years, came from the pariſh of Pitſligo, and the adjacent places in the north country. Moſt of them reſide in this pariſh, and they are an induſtrious ſet of people; but their profits are not conſiderable. Nine boats, and 4 men to each boat, are employed in this fiſhery.

Seal fiſhing is alſo followed by a few of the inhabitants. One of the fiſhers in this branch obtained, for ſeveral years

paſt, a conſiderable premium from the Truſtees of the fiſheries, for his diligence and ſucceſs.——Several go to the herring buſſes, in the Weſt Highlands, and Iſlands; but the two laſt years were remarkably unfavourable, ſo that they were great loſers by the expedition. The number of hands employed at ſea, from this pariſh, excluſive of the ſalmon, the ſeal, and white fiſhing, amounts to 50; ſome of whom, at one ſeaſon of the year, go abroad in trading veſſels, and, at another, are engaged in the herring fiſhery.

Diſeaſes.——We ſhall conclude this account with a few remarks on the health of the inhabitants.——Though the grounds of the pariſh ly low, yet the air is pure and healthy; owing to the vicinity of the ſea, and the dry and ſandy bottom of the ſoil. No epidemical diſorders are peculiar to the inhabitants; and infectious diſeaſes ſeldom prevail to any great height. It is, however, affirmed by ſome of the medical department, that the air is too pure for conſtitutions inclining to a conſumptive habit;—few of the natives of the place, however, fall a ſacrifice to that diſtemper.—— The health of the inhabitants is much injured by the too frequent uſe of ſpirituous liquors. And it would be advantageous both to their health and morals, if there were fewer alehouſes. Though the town is of ſmall extent, it is computed, that there are 12 public houſes, beſides ſeveral places where ſpirituous liquors are ſold. On the whole, however, though the inhabitants, in general, do not arrive at extreme old age, there are few places, where the ineſtimable bleſſing of health is enjoyed to a greater degree; ſo that this part of the country has, with ſome juſtice, been called the *Montpelier* of Scotland.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXI.

PARISH OF KIRKINTILLOCH.

(COUNTY OF DUMBARTON.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM DUNN.

Extent, Situation, Surface, &c.

THE diſtrict, which now conſtitutes the pariſh of Kirkintilloch, made, in the time of the Romans, a part of the northern boundary of the province of Valentia. When, at an after period, the country was divided into pariſhes, it acquired the name of Weſter Leinzie. Under that denomination, it was given, by Robert I. of Scotland, to Sir Robert de Fleming, in conſideration of the eminent ſervices, he had performed, in the courſe of the long and bloody conteſt, which that monarch carried on with the Engliſh, for the poſſeſſion of the Scottiſh throne.

The great Roman wall, commonly called Graham's dyke*, paſſing

* *Roman Wall.*—The remains of the Roman wall, and of three large forts, and as many watch-towers built upon it, may ſtill be diſtinctly traced in this pariſh. The wall proceeds through Kirkintilloch for the ſpace of 5 miles, between eaſt and weſt. The

paſſing through the whole length of the pariſh, its former name was probably derived from that circumſtance, ſince Leinzie, may, by no very fanciful etymology, be conſidered as a provincial corruption of the Latin term, *Linea*. Its preſent appellation, Kirkintilloch, or rather Caerpentilloch, is ſaid to ſignify, in the language of the antient inhabitants of North Britain, "the end of a long tongue or promontary of "riſing ground," which is exactly deſcriptive of the ſituation of the town, ſtanding on the extremity of a ridge, advancing from

firſt of theſe poſts upon the eaſt ſide, ſtands upon the top of the Barr-hill; a ſituation ſo elevated, as to command a view of almoſt the whole length of the wall, both eaſt and weſt. The fort is a ſquare area of 150 yards. Some vaults belonging to it, have lately been diſcovered. Theſe are ſtill entire; and are covered above with flat bricks, and floored with a mixture of lime and black and white gravel, reſembling ſand from the ſea-ſhore, very unlike any that is now to be found in this neighbourhood. The next of theſe forts, proceeding weſtward, is ſituated three miles diſtant, at the village of Auchindowie: this appears an oblong rectangular figure, extending 150 yards one way, and 70 another. It is now almoſt defaced; one part of the area being now a corn-field, while another is occupied by the houſes of the village; and the reſt has been cut away in opening the canal between the Forth and the Clyde.——Two miles onward, in the ſame direction, is the fort of Peel; ſituate on a piece of riſing ground, at the weſtern end of the town of Kirkintilloch; oblong and rectangular, 90 yards in length, 80 in breadth; ſingular, in being ſituated on the north ſide of the wall, whereas the others ſtand upon the ſouth ſide.——Stones, bearing inſcriptions, have been dug up among the ruins of all theſe forts: But the only words of theſe inſcriptions, that could be read, were, LEGIO SECUNDA AUGUSTA FECIT.

from the ſouth, into a plain on the banks of the Kelvin. From the town, the name came at length to be extended to the whole diſtrict.

The pariſh is ſituated in the ſhire of Dumbarton, or Lennox, in the preſbytery of Glaſgow, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. It is of a triangular figure, no where exceeding 5½ miles in length. Its breadth varies conſiderably.—The face of the ground, although diverſified throughout by a ſucceſſion of waving ſwells, is no where broken into abrupt precipices; and, excepting in one place of inconſiderable extent, no where deformed by rugged rocks.——There are no lakes in the diſtrict. The Kelvin is the principal river, which, of itſelf, is a conſiderable body of water, and, which is joined in its courſe along this pariſh, by many ſmaller ſtreams; in particular, by the Skinna, and the Luggie. The latter paſſes through the town of Kirkintilloch.

Soil, Foſſils, and Animals.—The huſbandman finds a conſiderable diverſity of ſoils, through the lands in this diſtrict. The ground along the ſouthern part of the Kelvin, is of a deep, marſhy nature, and is often overflowed by the river. The ſoil of a ſmall tract, towards the north-eaſt angle, is of a light reddiſh earth, upon a whinſtone and gravelly bottom. Around the town of Kirkintilloch, the ſoil is a light black loam, 16 or 18 inches deep, on a reddiſh tilly bottom. A ſtrong natural clay prevails through the ſouthern, and the eaſtern parts of the pariſh. Tracts of moſs, affording a black peat earth, are interſperſed here and there, throughout the whole diſtrict.——Lime, coal, and freeſtone, are found in great abundance.—The ſtreams by which the pariſh is watered, afford ſalmon, trout, perch, and pike.——We have the common domeſtic animals,—horſes, cows, ſwine, and a few ſheep.——Our draught-horſes are ſtrong, gentle, and handſome

ſome. Our milch-cows often yield 8 Engliſh gallons of milk in a day.

Cultivation and Produce of the Lands.—The lands in this pariſh are almoſt entirely arable;—and we have happily abundance of the beſt manures. Our farmers, accordingly, are chiefly employed in agriculture. Oats, barley, hay from ſown graſſes, flax, peaſe, beans, and a ſmall proportion of wheat, are our chief articles of crop. Turnips begin to be cultivated among us. Dung, lime, a compoſt of earth with other materials, and an addition of ſimple earth, of a different nature from the ſoil of the field upon which it is laid, are the manures principally made uſe of.

A chalder of lime, conſiſting of 16 bolls, each of which contains 3 firlots, wheat meaſure, is, at preſent bought, at any of the lime-works, in the neighbouring pariſh of Campſie, for 6s 8d.

The average produce of oats and barley, through theſe lands, may, in moderately favourable ſeaſons, be about 5 or 6 bolls an acre: And, in years of moderate plenty, their average price in the market, is from 13s to 14s, a boll. The farms are in general ſmall; conſiſting commonly of about 50 acres each. The farmer is often proprietor, in feu, of his own farm. The lands may be eſtimated as either actually yielding, or, at leaſt, capable of yielding from 15s to 20s an acre, of yearly rent.

Town, and the Employments followed in it.—The town of Kirkintilloch is a very antient burgh of barony. It was erected about 1170, by William, King of Scots, in favour of William Cumin, Baron of Leinzie, and Lord of Cumbernauld; and ſtill holds of the barony of Cumbernauld, for the payment of 12 merks Scots, of yearly feu-duty. The privileges with which

it

it has been endowed, are very ample. Its burgeſſes elect their own magiſtrates, independently of the lord of the barony. The magiſtrates are two baillies; and are annually choſen. They are impowered by the charters of the burgh, to hold courts, levy fines, impriſon offenders, or even baniſh them from their liberties; and in ſhort, to exerciſe every right with which the baron himſelf was veſted, before the erection of the burgh. Theſe rights, the community have continued, ever ſince that period, to enjoy, undiſturbed. They were, in no degree, affected by the act, by which the Britiſh parliament, in 1748, aboliſhed the heritable juriſdictions in Scotland. A large tract of land was alſo annexed to this burgh at its erection; and is now feued out, from time to time, in moderate parcels, as purchaſers offer. ——Linens and cottons, of different ſorts, are manufactured here.——The weavers are the moſt numerous claſs of mechanics in it. Many of the other mechanical employments, which ſupply the neceſſaries, and the ordinary conveniencies of life, are likewiſe practiſed.—Mr Stirling, younger of Glorat, a gentleman of diſtinguiſhed public ſpirit, lately erected a ſmall cotton-mill. Hand-machines, for ſpinning cotton, were, at the ſame time, introduced. The undertaking is in a very thriving condition. And, as the pariſh affords ſeveral other happy ſituations, it is probable, that theſe may ſoon be occupied by more works of the ſame kind.

Highways, and the Canal.—One of the great roads between Glaſgow and Edinburgh, paſſes through the town of Kirkintilloch; which is 7 miles diſtant from the former, and 49 from the latter.—None of our rivers are navigable; but the great canal between the Forth and the Clyde, paſſes through the whole length of this pariſh. After having been frequently propoſed, ſince the Union, this canal was at length begun in 1768, and

finiſhed

finished in 1790. The trade upon it is already great, and is rapidly increasing. One of its first effects has been, to equalize, in a great measure, the price of grain, throughout all the corn-countries in Scotland; to the temporary loss of the landholders, in the southern, and to the gain of those in the northern districts.

State of the Landed Property.—In the beginning of the 14th century, the whole parish, excepting the burgh lands of Kirkintilloch, and the small barony of Wester-Gartshore, (which has, for many generations, been possessed by that antient and respectable family, the Gartshores of Gartshore,) were the entire property of the noble family of Fleming. But, in the long series of years, which has elapsed since that period, that great estate has been gradually dismembered, partly in forming establishments for the younger branches or connexions of the family; and partly by supplying the enlarged expences, required by those new modes of life, which have been introduced in the progress of society. The last remainder of it was sold off, in 1757: And nothing now continues in the possession of the former proprietors, but the feu-duties, and some other casualities of feudal superiority.

The Poor.—The poor of this parish are not numerous. The weekly collections at the church-doors, have hitherto been found more than sufficient for their support. These happy circumstances are to be ascribed chiefly, to the minute subdivisions of the landed property in the parish, and to the general manners, and personal habits, which usually attend agricultural industry. But, it is to be feared, that if a greater proportion of the inhabitants, shall be induced to apply themselves to manufactures, one disadvantage which must necessarily arise from this increase of industry, is such a change in the manners of

of the lower claſſes, as may reduce them much oftener to a ſtate of helpleſs poverty.

State of Population.—The whole inhabitants of this pariſh, have been found, upon a very accurate ſurvey, to amount, at preſent, to the number of 2639.

Of theſe 1536 reſide in the town.

Among whom are 185 weavers
11 ſtocking-makers
15 ſmiths
20 houſe carpenters, and cabinet-makers
10 maſons
10 ſhoemakers
4 ſaddlers
6 coopers
A good many taylors; and a few hairdreſſers.

In 1751, the Rev. Dr. Erſkine, at that time miniſter of Kirkintilloch, now of Edinburgh, found the number of the families in the town, to be 195.

The families in the country 226.

The perſons in the town, from eight years of age, upwards, 575.

Thoſe in the country, from 8 years of age, upwards, were 796.

The addition of the Seceders and Quakers, at that time in the pariſh, to theſe numbers, make up 1400 examinable perſons in the pariſh. The return of ſouls to Dr Webſter, was 1696. Hence, it appears, that the increaſe of numbers, within theſe laſt 40 years, amounts to 943.

Character and Manners.—The inhabitants of this pariſh are, in general, a virtuous and induſtrious people. That pride of

mind, and impatience of contradiction, which the poſſeſſion of landed property frequently inſpires, perhaps may occaſion too many law-ſuits. The preſent miniſter was told, before he came amongſt them, that they were often diſpoſed to treat their clergymen with neglect and unkindneſs; but he has experienced nothing in his miniſtry, that could juſtify ſuch an accuſation. The exiſtence of Seceders, and of ſeceding meeting houſes, has perhaps no bad effect upon the manners and ſentiments of the people, either here, or any where elſe throughout the kingdom. They are in ſome degree ſpies and checks upon the members of the eſtabliſhed church; and the diſcourſes of their clergy are often adapted, with ſingular felicity, to the capacity and the prejudices of the leaſt enlightened claſſes in the community.—The ſmall number of the poor, dependent upon alms, and the liberal proviſion made for them, by voluntary contributions, are facts implying, in ſo populous a pariſh, no common praiſe: they beſpeak induſtry, ſobriety, frugality, and charity, to be the leading features in the moral character of theſe people.—As to their external appearance, they are of a middle ſtature; and, being free from hereditary diſeaſes, while they enjoy the advantages of an open ſituation, and a pure, although rather moiſt air, they are, in general, vigorous and healthy. Some, indeed, particularly the females, are not a little ſubject to hyſterics; a diſeaſe, the prevalence of which in this place, has, with ſome ſhew of probability, been attributed, partly to the dampneſs of our earthen floors, and partly, to the effects of ſpinning, for which, the women in this neighbourhood are deſervedly famous *.

Probable

* The women, when engaged in ſpinning, eſpecially in winter, ſit by the fire-ſide, and keeping, as their cuſtom is, always the ſame ſtation, the one ſide ſide is expoſed to the chilling cold of the

Probable Improvements.——It is eaſy to ſee, that the pariſh of Kirkintilloch, ſituated as it is, in the vicinity of a great, an opulent, an induſtrious, and a commercial city, and in a tract of country, where a paſſion for manufactures is ſo prevalent, interſected by a canal which joins the two greateſt navigable rivers in the kingdom, and which promiſes to ſpread cultivation, opulence, and induſtry, every where along its banks; divided, too, by the great road between the two principal cities in Scotland; poſſeſſing ſuch varieties of excellent ſoil, and ſo plentifully ſupplied with fuel, manure, and materials for building:—With ſuch advantages, it is eaſy to ſee, that the population, wealth, and induſtry of this pariſh, can hardly fail to increaſe conſiderably, even before the cloſe of the preſent century. The value of the lands may yet be greatly raiſed, by the introduction of more improved modes of agriculture: and ſcarcely any place can enjoy circumſtances more favourable to manufacturing induſtry. It is, indeed, probable, that either manufactures or agriculture, might long ſince, have attained a ſtate of ſtill greater improvement, if they had not mutually checked one another's progreſs. The facility, with which a piece of ground has been hitherto obtained, in feu from the burgh, has generally tempted the trader and the manufacturer, to retire too early to en-

the ſeaſon, and the other is relaxed by the warm influence of the fire. Beſides, in turning her lint-wheel, the perſon who ſpins, commonly employs but one foot, and uſes chiefly the hand of the ſame ſide, in making the thread. Thus the labour is very unequally divided, by which the health of the body muſt naturally be affected. Laſtly, the waſte of ſaliva in wetting the thread, muſt deprive the ſtomach of a ſubſtance eſſential to its operations, whence, all the fatal conſequences of crudities, and indigeſtion, may be expected.

joy the conſequence, which landed property confers, and to the pleaſures which imagination fondly, but too often fallaciouſly, aſcribes to a life ſpent in rural employments: Whilſt again, the profits of ſpinning, and the manufacturing ſpirit of the country, have commonly induced the farmer to pay only a partial attention to the cares of huſbandry.

Corruption of Morals likely to attend the increaſe of Induſtry. ——One unhappy circumſtance, that may attend the increaſe of induſtry, and the introduction of new manufactures among us, is too important to be overlooked: Children becoming ſooner able to ſubſiſt by the profits of their own labour, will, of conſequence, ſooner diſregard the authority of their parents, acquire earlier habits of expence; and, being expoſed to the infection of vice and diſſipation, before the powers of their minds are in any degree matured, or their characters formed, —will be much more worthleſs in manhood, and more helpleſs in old age. It would be a happy circumſtance, therefore, if politicians could contrive ſome means, to preſerve the virtue and morals of the people, while they are endeavouring to increaſe their numbers, to enliven their induſtry, and to augment their wealth *.

* The advantages reſulting from our late improvements is attended with one circumſtance, of which, we have reaſon to complain, which is this, that the uſe of lime upon our lands, the filth, which is conveyed into our rivers, from the coal-works in the neighbourhood, and the machinery which have been erected, have already rendered a ſalmon fiſhery, which was conſiderable, very inſignificant; and, indeed, there is too much reaſon to apprehend, that the fiſh in our rivers will be almoſt totally exterminated by the joint effects of theſe different ſources of deſtruction.

NUMBER XXII.

PARISH OF MOFFAT.

(COUNTIES OF DUMFRIES AND LANARK.)

By the Rev. MR ALEXANDER BROWN.

Situation, Boundaries, and Name.

THE principal part of the parish of Moffat lies in the stewartry of Annandale, now united to the shire of Dumfries. Two farms only belong to the shire of Lanark, and remain under the civil jurisdiction of that county.

The parish is bounded on the south by Wamphry; on the east by Ettrick and Line; on the north by Tweedsmuir and Crawford; on the west by Kirkpatrick-Juxta. Its greatest length, from east to west, is about 15 miles; its breadth, from south to north is 9 miles. Its form is irregular, particularly on the west, where it joins Kirkpatrick-Juxta.

The name is said to be Gaelic, and to signify *Long-holm*. The village of Moffat stands by the side of a holm, which, with a few interruptions, extends full 20 miles along the banks of the Annan. There is a river in the parish, which is likewise called Moffat. But whether the village derives its name from the river, or the river from the village, is uncertain.

Moffat

Moffat is diſtant from Dumfries 21 miles; from Annan 27; and theſe are the neareſt ſea-ports.

Rivers.—There are three rivers, which run through the pariſh, to wit, Evan on the weſt, Moffat on the eaſt, and Annan in the middle. Theſe three rivers join near the ſouthern boundary of the diſtrict; and the united ſtreams bear the name of Annan thence to the Solway firth.

Soil.—Upon the banks of the Annan, and the Moffat, there is a good deal of meadow and arable land. The ſoil is a mixture of clay, loam, and ſand waſhed, down in the courſe of ages, from the mountains and high grounds. Above theſe, riſing towards the hills, the other arable lands are of a light dry gravelly ſoil, in moſt places tolerably deep; and with lime, which the farmers begin to uſe, producing excellent crops of oats. There is very little wheat or barley ſown. But there are large crops of excellent potatoes. Turnip and clover alſo are very ſucceſsfully cultivated. Lime is brought near 30 miles.

The extent of arable land is not known, having never been meaſured. It is gueſſed at about 3000 acres: about 300 of theſe are ſuppoſed to be in crop, beſides meadows. The land, in general, is very mountainous.

Market.——There is a weekly market in Moffat, which is ſupplied from the lower parts of the country. It is thought, however, that the whole grain produced in the pariſh, would not do more than ſupply the inns in the village.

Air.—The climate is thought remarkably healthy. Though the rains are frequent, and ſometimes heavy, yet in general, the air is wonderfully pure and dry. Every opening of the clouds

clouds diſcovers a ſky of a beautiful azure; and this, together with the dryneſs of the ſoil, it is believed, contribute greatly to health. Fevers ſeldom make their appearance in Moffat; and are generally much milder than in the lower parts of Annandale. Agues are not known. The people in general enjoy good health. Many live beyond 80, and ſome beyond 90 years.

Lake.—Lochſkeen is the only lake in the pariſh. It is 1100 yards in length, of unequal breadth. Where broadeſt, about 400 yards. The depth is not known. There is a ſmall iſland in it, where the eagles bring out their young in great ſafety; as the water is deep, and no boat upon the lake.——The only fiſh in Lochſkeen are freſh water trout, generally large; ſome of them 11 inches long, which are very fine in the ſeaſon. The rivers in the pariſh are plentifully ſtocked with trout of the ſame kind; and a ſpecies much ſmaller, ſea-trout, alſo, ſometimes come up the rivers in ſummer, and a few ſalmon.

Caſcade.—The water iſſuing from Lochſkeen forms a conſiderable rivulet; and, after running near three quarters of a mile, falls from one precipice to another, from a great height, daſhing and foaming, and thundering, between two high, ſteep, and rocky hills; forming the caſcade known by the name of the Grey Mare's Tail. It is ſeen to the greateſt advantage after a heavy rain; when it appears like one unbroken ſheet of water, from top to bottom.

Antiquities.——The rivulet, a little before it falls into the Moffat, has carried away a part of a circle, in form of a Druid temple; a ſmall portion of which, however, ſtill remains.

The Roman road, from Eſk to Stirling, paſſed through part of this pariſh, to the weſt of the village of Moffat. The veſtiges

tiges of that road, and of ſome military ſtations near it, are ſtill viſible. Some large Roman encampments; alſo, can be diſtinctly traced in the neighbourhood. A piece of gold was found, a few years ago, in a moſs not far from the road, part of ſome military ornament, marked with the number of the legion to which it belonged.

There are veſtiges of an encampment, ſuppoſed to be Britiſh, near Moffat water, three miles ſouth-eaſt of the village.

There is a moat of conſiderable height, of a conical form, with a deep ditch round it, near the road which leads from Moffat to the well ;—a beautiful object from that road at preſent; and which will ſoon become more ſo, being incloſed and planted by Lord Elliock, upon whoſe property it ſtands. Another ſmaller moat ſtands at the diſtance of a few hundred yards weſt from it.

A mile eaſt of the Roman road, and not far from one of the Roman encampments, are two caves, cut out of a freeſtone rock, fit to contain a number of cattle. But, when formed, or by whom, is beyond all memory. They are in a deep ſequeſtered glen; and were probably made for ſhelter in troubleſome times. They ſerve at preſent for offices to the farm-houſe placed near them.

There are ruins of many old towers in different parts of the pariſh. None of them appear to have been large. They have been built with lime made of ſea ſhells. They have probably been deſigned as places of ſecurity, againſt the invaſions of the borderers, or retreats for the inhabitants, when returning from their own predatory excurſions.

Mountains.—The higheſt mountain in the pariſh, and perhaps ſouth of Forth, is Hartfell. Its altitude was taken, with great care and accuracy, by Dr Walker, profeſſor of natural hiſtory in the univerſity of Edinburgh. It is within a

triſle of 3000 feet higher, than the village of Moffat, which may be 300 feet, or more, above the level of the ſea. There is a large and beautiful plain, upon the top of Hartfell, of extent enough for a horſe race. The proſpect on a clear day is immenſe: Weſtmoreland, Cumberland, and Northumberland, are ſeen on the ſouth; the ocean, both on the eaſt and weſt, and, to the north, the view is terminated by the Highland hills. There is a ſpring well near the top of the mountain. The ſpring, called Hartfell Spaw, iſſues from the foot of it.

Moſt of the hills in the pariſh are very high, though they all fall ſhort of Hartfell. They are moſtly green, with very little heath: Some of them much broken with rocks. One hill, called the Yoke, is ſo narrow at the top, that a perſon can ſit with a leg on each ſide of it, as upon a ſaddle, and ſee to the bottom on both ſides, where two beautiful rivulets flow.

Mines and Minerals——No mines have been diſcovered in the pariſh, though ſome ſlight trials have been made. Coals are brought from Douglas; a few from Sanquhar; both diſtant near 30 miles. Fuel is conſequently dear at Moffat; ſeldom, even in ſummer, can coals be bought, under 10d. the hundred weight; and, in the winter ſeaſon, they coſt from 1s. to 16, or 18d.

Peats or turf are brought 4 or 5 miles, and ſold at 2s. the ſingle cart load in ſummer, and, in winter, at 2s 6d. They are generally very good; and yet, dear as coal is, it is thought the cheapeſt fire of the two.

It is ſaid, that there is a conſiderable body of allum rock in the pariſh; but no trial has been made of it. Indeed its mountainous ſituation, and its diſtance from fuel, and from the ſea, would render it of little no value.

There is a ſpecies of clay, which the ſmiths uſe for fixing

their bellows in their furnaces, and of which the country people make, what they call, Hudds, to ſet in their chimnies behind their fires, which, they ſay, does not calcine or ſplit with heat; and which, after it has ſtood the fire for years, and become hard as a ſtone, upon being expoſed for ſome time to the common air, it turns ſoft, and may be wrought and faſhioned with the hand as before.

There is a vein of free ſtone, which runs through the pariſh, from ſouth to north. It is red, but uncommonly ſoft and brittle; and is, for that reaſon, of little or no uſe in building.

There is a ſlate quarry lately opened in the pariſh. The ſlates are ſtrong, and, it is believed, durable. They are not very ſmooth: and are of a colour between blue and grey.

Animals.——The quadrupeds, of the wild kind, are foxes, hares, wild cats, fulmarts, otters, badgers. The foxes are in great numbers. The farmers often ſuſtain conſiderable loſs by them; and it is thought, that few of them kill ſheep, in compariſon with thoſe, who live upon poultry, game, and the ſmaller animals. Great numbers of them are killed by the farmers, and by the county huntſmen, almoſt every ſeaſon.

It is probable that, in former times, the mountains abounded with deer; as ſeveral places in the pariſh derive their names from that animal, as Hartfell, Harthope, Raecluegh, &c.

Game.—There are both red and black game in the pariſh: not much, indeed, of the latter; but they are increaſing, and as the plantations get forward, it is expected, that they will become more numerous. There are abundance of partridges in the

the lowlands, and plovers in the muirs. Birds from the ſea-ſhore come in the ſeaſon to hatch.—The common migratory birds, are the cuckow, the ſwallow, and the woodcock. The bulfinch has appeared within the laſt 7 years, and ſeems to multiply faſt.

Cattle.—Black cattle are few in proportion to the extent of lands in the pariſh; chiefly milch-cows, kept by the farmers, and the people in the village of Moffat. They are generally above the middle ſize; many of them excellent milkers. The number in the whole diſtrict is about 200. Hardly any bullocks, or heifers are fattened in the pariſh; and only a few cows, not exceeding 30.

In the neighbourhood of the village of Moffat, a cow is graſſed at L. 1:10 ſterling. New milk is ſold for 1d. the Scots pint; ſkimmed milk for ½. Butter for 9d. per pound; ewe-milk cheeſe for 6s. the ſtone; both heavy weight.

Sheep.——The ſheep farmers, or ſtore-maſters, are not much diſpoſed to publiſh or make known the amount of their reſpective flocks; but it is ſuppoſed, that there are, in all, from 18,000 to 20,000 ſheep.——The prices of ſheep ſtocks, of late years, have been, for aged ſheep, from L. 12 to L. 14 per ſcore; for young ſheep, from L. 8 to L. 9; for lambs, from L. 3:15, to L. 6.

Wool.——Beſides the wool conſumed in the pariſh, about 200 packs are annually exported. It has gone moſtly to England, for theſe three years paſt. Prices have been from 6 s. to 6s 3d. per ſtone. Within the laſt 7 years, wool was ſold under 4s. per ſtone; ſome under 3s. Within theſe few years, there has been a conſiderable riſe of the value both of ſheep and wool.

An intelligent farmer in the pariſh, (David Irvine of Polmoody,) has tried a very important and ſucceſsful experiment for improving his wool. In the years 1787, 1788, and 1789, he put Eſkdale and Tiviotdale rams, of the white-faced, polled kind, the ſame with the Cheviot breed, to his ewes, of the horned, black-faced kind. In the year 1790, he ſold the wool of the ſheep, produced by that croſs, at 10s. the 6 fleeces; the wool of his other ſtock, which were of the horned, black-faced kind, and went exactly on the ſame paſture, only at 6s 3d. the 7 fleeces. He has found the ſheep produced from the white-faced polled rams, as healthy as his other ſheep; and that an equal number may be fed on the ſame paſture. The weight of the carcaſe has not been materially altered.

The ideas of the other farmers do not, as yet, coincide with this; and many of them are eminently ſkilfull in the management of ſheep. Yet Mr Irvine's farm, is as high ground, as almoſt any in Scotland. Should his plan of improvement be juſtified by farther experiments, it would double the value of the wool produced in the pariſh, by increaſing the weight a ſeventh part, and the price more than a third *.

Few of the farmers waſh their ſheep. They ſmear heavily; and apprehend, that the wool would loſe more in weight, by omitting that operation, than the additional price, (were it unſmeared,) would compenſate.

It is not long ſince the ſheep, in this part of the country, were of the four horned kind; a few of which, it is ſaid, remain ſtill in ſome parts of Nithſdale. Their body is ſmaller, but their wool

* There can be no doubt, that the fine, cloſe, ſhort woolled breed of ſheep, is the proper ſort for a hilly country; and that their wool may be brought even on the Moffat hills, to 30s. nay, perhaps, to 40s. a ſtone.

wool finer, than thoſe of the preſent breed. Their want of weight for the butcher, and greater difficulty and danger in lambing, have baniſhed them from this place. The mutton of the preſent breed is excellent; not large, weighing only from 10 to 12, or 15 pounds per quarter. The market is generally well ſupplied with this and other articles of proviſion. The price is ruled by that of Dumfries.

Population.—There are 220 families in the village of Moffat, and 80 in the country part of the pariſh. The number of perſons, young and old, rather above 1600. In 1755, they amounted to 1612, according to the report made to Dr Webſter.

There are no houſes uninhabited. Some new ones were lately built in the village, and more are building at preſent; yet the inhabitants can hardly be accommodated.

As there are, as yet, no manufactures in Moffat, many young perſons of both ſexes go to other places for employment. An woollen manufacture is intended to be eſtabliſhed ſoon; and the neceſſary buildings were propoſed to be erected in ſummer, 1791. As thoſe who have engaged in this buſineſs, are poſſeſſed of the important requiſites of capital, judgement and activity, and bear moſt reſpectable characters, it is hoped, that they will ſucceed, to their own intereſt and honour, and to the advantage of the neighbourhood, and of the public at large. In that event, more of our young people will find buſineſs at home, and fewer will emigrate.

There are, at preſent, in the village and pariſh of Moffat, 50 weavers, 6 ſhoemakers, 6 taylors, 4 ſmiths, 8 merchants, 1 watch-maker, 2 bakers, 1 butcher, 1 barber, 5 maſons, 6 wrights, 1 phyſician, 1 ſurgeon.

Roads.

Roads.—The road from Carlyle to Glaſgow, paſſes through the pariſh, from ſouth to north, for upwards of ſix miles.—The mail-coach between theſe places, paſſes and repaſſes every day; and, at an average, about 70 cart load of merchant goods, every week. The trade moſtly conſiſts of cotton-yarn, and cotton cloth.

The road from Dumfries to Edinburgh joins the Glaſgow road at the village of Moffat, and parts with it four miles north of that village, on the hill, known by the name of Erickſtane-brae. A little further north, the rivers Tweed, Clyde, Evan, and Annan, take their riſe: And though the Tweed falls into the German ocean at Berwick, the Clyde into the weſtern ſea below Glaſgow, and the Evan and Annan united, fall into Solway firth, their ſources are ſo near each other, that one rivulet, which was formerly a branch of the Clyde, now falls into the Evan.

The trade on the Edinburgh road is not ſo conſiderable as on the one which leads to Glaſgow. A mail-coach from Dumfries to Edinburgh was lately ſet on foot, but has been given up. When that road is completely repaired, it will probably be re-eſtabliſhed. Both roads are made by act of parliament, and are maintained by the tolls.

Woods and Plantations.——There is one natural wood in the pariſh, about 50 acres in extent; conſiſting of oak, aſh, birch, alder, &c. It is the property of William Campbell, Eſq. writer to the ſignet, who hath incloſed it properly, and pays every attention to its preſervation. It is upon the north ſide of Moffat water, and adds greatly to the beauty of that part of the country. There was another natural wood oppoſite to it, on the ſouth ſide of Moffat water, belonging to his Grace the Duke of Queenſberry; but it was lately cut down, and, being left

left unincloſed, is loſt in future to the proprietor, and to the public.

Near the foot of Moffat water, where it joins Annan, there are many large and thriving plantations, made by the late Sir George Clerk Maxwell; conſiſting of Scots, ſpruce, ſilver, and balm of Gilead firs; oak, aſh, larix, elm, beech, and varieties of other barren timber, which do honour to the judgement and taſte of that public-ſpirited gentleman; and have rendered a place, formerly bare and bleak, one of the moſt delightful ſpots in Annandale.

The Earl of Hopetoun has likewiſe made ſeveral conſiderable plantations, to the North and Weſt of the village of Moffat, which will ſoon be a great ornament to the place, and a laſting monument of his Lordſhip's zeal and patriotiſm.

Village.——The village of Moffat, though in a high country, is pleaſantly ſituated. It ſtands upon a riſing ground, gently declining towards the ſouth, to which the principal ſtreet looks, and hath a fine proſpect of the valley below. It is encompaſſed on the weſt, north, and eaſt, with hills of different heights, partly incloſed and cultivated, and partly in paſture. The ſtreet is wide and ſpacious, handſomely formed and gravelled, exceedingly ſmooth, clean and dry in an hour after the heavieſt rains; and is a moſt agreeable walk to the inhabitants, and to the company that come for goats-whey, or the mineral waters.——Annan runs on the weſt of the village, at the diſtance of a few hundred yards, dividing a fine holm, which is beautifully diverſified, by the windings of the river, the meadows and corn-fields. The planting, on all ſides of the village, is ſeen from the ſtreet, and every year appears with increaſing beauty. There is one capital inn in the village, where the poſt-office is kept. There are other leſſer inns, and ſeveral

ral excellent lodging houſes, where the beſt company may be accommodated.

Mineral Springs.——There are two mineral ſprings in the pariſh; both well known, and juſtly celebrated for their medicinal virtues.

The firſt has long ago been diſtinguiſhed by the name of Moffat Well, and is a ſtrong ſulphureous water, about a mile and a half from the village; with an excellent carriage road to it, and a long room and ſtables, and other conveniences, upon the ſpot, for the uſe of the company, when they are drinking the waters. This well was diſcovered more than 150 years ago; and has ever ſince been much reſorted to, from all parts of the kingdom. It is generally allowed to be a very effectual remedy in all ſcrophulous and ſcorbutic caſes, and is ſeldom known to fail, when the lungs are ſound. Moſt wonderful cures have been effected by it. For many years paſt, it has been generally uſed, and with equal ſucceſs, for creating appetite, and promoting digeſtion; for bilious and other complaints of the ſtomach and bowels; for the gravel and the rheumatiſm. It is a remarkably light water, and ſo powerfully diuretic, that many of the common people are known to drink 8 or 10 bottles of it daily, throughout the ſeaſon, without the ſmalleſt injury to their health. It ſparkles in the glaſs like champaign, and is ſo remarkably volatile, that it cannot be drunk in perfection, unleſs at the fountain. It is alſo uſed as a waſh. A chemical analyſis was made of it, in the year 1659, by Mr M'Kaile, and ſince that time by Mr Milligan and Dr Plummer.

The other mineral ſpring is known by the name of the Hartfell Spaw, and is four miles diſtant from the village. It is a powerful chalybeate, and therefore taken only in ſmall quantities. It poſſeſſes a very ſingular property, of being ſtrongeſt after heavy rains; but when taken up then, and properly

perly corked and ſealed, it will carry to any diſtance, and preſerve its taſte and virtues many years. It is very ſucceſsfully uſed in complaints of the breaſt, ſtomach, and bowels; in all diſeaſes peculiar to the fair ſex, and is a valuable reſtorative. It has alſo been found very effectual as a waſh, in healing obſtinate ulcers, and cutaneous eruptions. A chemical deſcription of it is given by Dr Horſeburgh. It was diſcovered by John Williamſon, more than 50 years ago. A monument, erected on his grave in Moffat church yard, by the late Sir George Maxwell, is meant to tranſmit his name, and the date of the diſcovery, to future times.

There is likewiſe a petrifying ſpring, about 4 miles north weſt from the village, but little attention has been paid to it.

Goat Whey.——As an additional inducement to the invalid to repair to Moffat, a conſiderable number of goats are kept in the neighbourhood of the well. The paſture is thought to be excellent, and the milk of the beſt kind. It is ſent to the village new every morning and every evening; or, it may be got at the farm-houſe, where it is milked, hard by the well, from the firſt of June to the end of Auguſt.

Stipend, Church, &c.——The ſtipend is 100 guineas. The glebe meaſures 12 acres, and has been let at L. 16 ſterling. The manſe was built about 20 years ago; and, though a ſmall houſe, is a very ſufficient and well executed building. The church was built about two years ago; is a large plain edifice, completely fitted up in the inſide, upon a regular plan, and may accommodate 1000 hearers conveniently.—The Earl of Hopetoun is patron.

Poor.——The number of poor, receiving alms weekly from the pariſh funds, is under ten at preſent. Beſides, there are

upwards of 30 that receive occaſionally. The ordinary collections at the church, amount to L. 30 *per annum*. Particular collections are ſometimes made for ſpecial exigencies; and, upon ſuch occaſions, the people are very liberal.

General State. — The valuation of the pariſh, in the county books, is about 13,000 merks. The preſent rents of the landward part, including the parks and paſture about the village, amount to L. 3300 ſterling. The rents of the houſes, in and about the village, cannot be exactly aſcertained: Many houſes are poſſeſſed by the proprietors; but eſtimating the rents of them proportionally, with the houſes that are poſſeſſed by tenants, we may ſtate the whole rents of the village, at L. 600. Total L. 3900.

Half the pariſh belongs to the Marquis of Annandale, and to the Earl of Hopetoun. There are 11 or 12 other heritors, only one of whom reſides in it.—There are many feuers in the village.

The pariſh has never been meaſured. A few parks near the village, and ſome individual farms, have been ſurveyed, but no map has been made of the whole diſtrict, nor is it eaſy to eſtimate what its contents may be.

NUMBER XXIII.

PARISH OF GALASHIELS.

(COUNTIES OF ROXBURGH AND SELKIRK.)

By the Rev. MR. DOUGLAS.

Extent, Situation, &c.

THE pariſh of Galaſhiels, in the preſbytery of Selkirk, and ſynod of Merſe and Teviotdale, lies partly in the ſhire of Roxburgh, and partly in that of Selkirk. The Tweed, which is here an inconſiderable river, divides it into two parts. The ſouthern part belongs to the former, the northern to the latter county. It is of an irregular triangular form; but, at an average, may be about 5¼ miles in breadth.

Surface, &c.—The country is hilly, and may even be called mountainous; Meagle, or, perhaps, Meg-hill, or Maygilt, being 1480 feet above the level of the ſea. The hills are moſtly green, though ſome of them have a little heath. They are remarkably dry, and furniſh excellent ſheep paſture. In ſome places, ſpots of rock appear, either a kind of rotten ſlate, or rotten granite; the latter, a few feet below the ſurface, is hard, and uſeful for building; and ſtones, of conſiderable ſize, of both kinds, are not unfrequently found upon the

ſurface, remarkably hard and durable. One or two of the hills are conical; but are ſo completely covered with graſs, or turf, that nothing like lava can be ſeen. Nor are there any figured ſtones, coal, minerals, marble, freeſtone, or petrifactions in the pariſh.

Soil and Agriculture.—The ſoil is various; and the ſtriking difference, between the ſoil on the ſouth, and that on the north of the Tweed, deſerves particular attention. In the former, it is, in general, deep, heavy, cold, and wet, on a bottom of clay or of rock. It is, in ſome parts, perfectly red, and iron ſtones are found amongſt it. In other places, it is very porous; but though light, is not ſandy, or lying on gravel.—— There are ſeveral ſmall lakes, and moſſes, which yield excellent peats; and, when drained, ſome of them are full of ſhell marle, of a good quality.—Oats, a ſmall quantity of barley, and a few peaſe, were the only crops raiſed, till within theſe few years, that marle began to be uſed. Turnips, red and white clover, are now introduced, and the annual quantity of peaſe and barley, is conſiderably increaſed. Of 500 acres, which, for the laſt five years, have been annually ploughed, not above four-fifths, have, at an average, been ſown with oats; whereas, formerly, that grain was ſown upon, at leaſt, nine-tenths of the ploughed ground. The other fifth is employed in turnips, clover, peaſe, barley, and a few potatoes; and, ſometimes, in low grounds, there are ſmall ſpots of wheat.—They ſow as early as the ſeaſon will permit, which is never before March; yet they reap late, ſeldom before September, and ſometimes have corn in the fields in November.

Though only 500 acres, or thereabouts, are, at an average, in corn every year, yet, of the 2700, of which this part of the pariſh conſiſts, at leaſt 1500 acres have, in a kind of rotation, been torn up, partly for the ſake of enriching the ſoil with marle,

marle, but chiefly, becauſe unſkilful farmers, after having overcropped one part, by raiſing oats for many years ſucceſſively, are forced to give it reſt, and to break up what has long lain in paſture. Notwithſtanding the wetneſs of the ſoil, and climate, the ſheep walks are ſufficiently dry, owing to the natural declivity of the ground, and, in ſome places, to draining.

On the north of Tweed, the ſoil, in general, is dry and ſhallow, lying partly on gravel, a good deal on till, and ſome on rock. It is remarkably full of ſmall ſtones, which almoſt every where cover the furface. It has been found, however, by experience, dangerous to remove them, unleſs the ſhallow ſoil, is, at the ſame time, deepened and enriched. They are ſaid both to reflect heat, and to retain moiſture; and to them is to be attributed, in ſome degree, the luxuriance and excellent quality of the crops, in this part of the diſtrict; which, conſidering the ſmall depth of the ſoil, are truly aſtoniſhing. Even here, there is a conſiderable portion inclining towards clay; ſome of it is ſtiff and deep, though, on the whole, not difficult to work. In ſome hollows, there are ſwamps, and a kind of moſs, yielding very bad peat; and all the ſpots, where moſs appears, if laid together, would ſcarcely exceed 10 acres. —— No marle can be found, by all the trials which have been made; and, though it may appear incredible, and cannot eaſily be accounted for, it is nevertheleſs confidently aſſerted, by ſome, who have made the ſearch, that there is no marle in the whole range of country, from Tweed to the vicinity of Edinburgh, except in ſome places of the Merſe.

On the clay ſoil, and high grounds, both oats and peaſe are ſown as early, and reaped as late, as on the ſouth of Tweed. But on the dry ſoil, which, though ſhallow, produces the ſureſt and beſt crops, oats are never ſown, excepting in a very tempting ſeaſon, till the very end of March, or beginning of April,

April. When the ſeed time of oats is over, potatoes are planted, and the land, deſigned for barley, receives a ſecond furrow.—From the 28th of April, to the 12th, or even the 15th of May, peaſe are ſown; and from that time, barley, till the beginning of June. This late ſowing, ſupplies, in ſome meaſure, the defect of ſoil; generally ſecures a ſufficient growth of ſtraw, and never endangers the loſs of a crop, from the lateneſs of reaping. In every ſeaſon, the lateſt ſown grain, on dry gravelly ſand, ripens before the earlieſt ſown on clay land; and grain of every kind, ſown on dry ſoil, earlier than the above periods, ſeldom turns well out, except when the ground is very full of manure.——Though harveſt has been known to commence early in Auguſt, and to be moſtly over in September, yet it more commonly begins with September, and ends about the middle of October.

This dry land may conſiſt of 500 acres, of which 300 are annually in oats, and the remaining 200 in barley, peaſe, clover, potatoes, and turnips, nearly in equal proportions. But as the three laſt are produced in great perfection, it may be expected, that the increaſe of theſe green crops, will diminiſh the quantity of oats, ſtill annually ſown, and help to check the ruinous ſyſtem of impoveriſhing land, by a ſucceſſion of white crops. A few acres here, as well as in the ſouthern diſtrict, are ſometimes dedicated to wheat. The reſt of the land in tillage, on the north of Tweed, which is either inclining towards clay, or lying in a high expoſed ſituation, conſiſting moſtly of irregular ſpots on the ſides of hills, cannot be ſo accurately aſcertained, but may be ſafely computed at 200 acres; on which hardly any other grain is ſown, except oats, the ſmall quantities of barley and peaſe being ſcarcely worthy of notice.

Superficial Contents and Produce.—— On the whole, the number

ber of acres in the pariſh, are calculated at 8000. Of theſe, upwards of 1200 are annually in tillage, of which above 900 are in oats, and about 300 in barley, peaſe, clover, potatoes, and turnips. The difference in the quality of grain, ſhould alſo be remarked. In the worſt ſeaſon, oats, on ſome dry grounds, will yield at leaſt at the rate of 8 ſtone of meal per boll, Linlithgow meaſure; while, in the ſame ſeaſon, they will not, on wet lands, yield, 5 ſtone. Barley will alſo weigh, on dry grounds, 18½ ſtones, (the Linlithgow boll,) and on marled ground, ſcarcely 12 ſtones; and, in general, all grains are heavier on a ſharp ſoil.——There can be no doubt, but that more grain is raiſed, than conſumed in the pariſh. But as a great deal of wheat, flour, and bread, is bought for conſumption here, and, on the other hand, as large quantities of every ſort of grain, wheat excepted, are exported to Edinburgh, Dalkeith, and Peebles, the ſurplus of grain produced, more than what is uſed, cannot be calculated with any degree of certainty.

Ploughs and Cattle.——There are 37 ploughs in the pariſh, moſtly made after Small's model, ſome with moulds of caſt metal, and ſome in the old Scottiſh form; which many, after trying the other, think moſt ſuitable to a ſtony ſoil. They are, in general, drawn by two horſes, though four are ſometimes ſeen in a plough, or two horſes and two oxen. There are 109 horſes in the pariſh; of which 92 are employed in draught, including ploughs, carts, and huckſtering. The reſt are young, occaſionally, perhaps, yoked in the harrows, or employed as ſaddle horſes. Single horſe carts are moſtly uſed, and their number may be 64; all, except 5, carrying, ſolely, coal, manure, grain, and wood.——The black cattle, may amount, at leaſt, to 300, moſtly young or milch cows, beſides

ſides thoſe fed on turnips, the number of which cannot be aſcertained.

Sheep--Horſes and black cattle are here objects of inferior conſideration to ſheep, for which all parts of the pariſh are well adapted. According to the beſt information, their number muſt be nearly 5000; ſome farmers thinking it greater, and ſome leſs. This number, which cannot be far from the truth, is maintained on little more than 6000 acres; from which circumſtance, ſome idea may be formed of the value of the paſture. They are, in general, of the long bodied kind; rather ſmall, feeding only to 8½ lb. rarely to 10 lb. per quarter, on the hill, but improving to 12½ lb. and even to 15 lb. per quarter, in ſheltered incloſures. The dryneſs of the paſture, and ſmall ſize of the ſheep, give them a juice remarkably rich, and a flavour remarkably delicate. Their wool is not fine, yielding only about 12 s. per ſtone of 24 lb. Engliſh, and taking 8 or 9 fleeces to a ſtone. The value of it is leſſened by the quantity of tar, with which, it is the univerſal practice, to ſalve the ſheep, being fully equal to that of oil or butter; but, in this neighbourhood, farmers now begin to uſe, 2 and even 3 pints of oil, or melted butter, to one pint of tar, and think their wool is improved by this change. Judges aſſert, that ſmearing is, in general, unſkillfully performed in this corner, the ſeaſon being too far advanced, and the ingredients being both improperly proportioned, and careleſsly laid on. Without entering into points, which muſt be determined ſolely by the experience of ſtore farmers, it is natural to think, that this operation ſhould take place early in the ſeaſon, before the days ſhorten; becauſe quantities of rain and ſnow, are then apt to fall; and when the ſheep are once thoroughly drenched, they do not readily become dry enough to receive the ſalve to advantage. Beſides, the firſt attacks of cold and wet

are always moſt to be dreaded and guarded againſt. Perhaps alſo, when done early, the wool will be more eaſily laid aſide, ſo as to let the ſalve reach the ſkin, which alone, and not the wool, it is intended to protect *.—In juſtification, however, of the farmers of this pariſh, let it be remembered, that about one fourth part of their profit ariſes from raiſing corn; that their harveſt is late, and that, without neglecting their crops, they cannot well attend, earlier than they do, to ſmearing their ſheep. Let it alſo be obſerved, that, as their chief dependance is on their flocks, it is natural for them to be timorous in venturing on innovations, which may be attended with riſk; and they can only be expected to adopt, by ſlow degrees, any alteration on the mode of treating their ſheep, however promiſing it may be, until it is fully ſanctioned by experience.

Commons, Woods, &c.——There is no land in common, or lying waſte; but upwards of 60 acres are occupied by houſes, gardens, orchards, ſtack-yards, and dunghills. About 200 acres are in wood, moſtly planted, though part is natural. Lakes, moſſes, and the beds of Tweed, Gala, and Ettrick, by all of which the pariſh is either interſected or bounded, will occupy, at leaſt, 100 acres.—The produce of the orchards is trifling, conſiſting only of a few common apples, pears, and plumbs. But the woods are valuable. Oaks, aſhes, and elms, grow to a large ſize, and are of an excellent quali-

* It ſeems farther probable, that good oil, being known to defend againſt water, to meliorate wool, and deſtroy vermin, if ſubſtituted for butter, and uſed in a larger proportion to the tar, might both increaſe the weight and the quality of the fleeces. The farmers, however, in general, prefer butter to oil.

ty: Scots firs, planes, and birches, are in great abundance, and equally thriving: And the larix, the beech, the mountain-aſh, and ſeveral kinds of willow, though leſs frequent, are in great perfection.——The woods are frequented by the birds and quadrupeds, which are common through Scotland: Snipes, woodcocks, ſwallows, ſea-gulls, and wild geeſe, are annual viſitants. Wild ducks remain through the year.—Little damage has ever been done by wind, thunder-ſtorms, or inundations. In ſpring, 1782, both Tweed and Gala were ſwelled higher, than they had been for 30 years before, yet did no miſchief worthy of being mentioned.

Population.——From traditional accounts, as well as from the veſtiges and ruins of houſes, the population, both of the pariſh and of the village, muſt have been conſiderable about a century ago; and the general opinion is, that it has diminiſhed. According to the return made to Dr Webſter, in 1755, the number of ſouls then amounted to 998. Since 1770, when the preſent incumbent was admitted, the population has been on the increaſe. By a liſt, taken at that time, the inhabitants were between 870 and 880. A ſecond liſt, taken in January, 1789, made their number 901; of whom, 412 were males, and 489 females; 352 were under 14 years of age, and 20 were above 70. By an accurate liſt, taken in January 1791, their number was as follows:

Males - -	426	Below 10 years -	253
Females - -	488	Between 10 and 20	181
	——	Between 20 and 50	344
Total	914	Between 40 and 70	115
		Above 70 - -	21
Married - -	280		——
In widowhood -	53		914

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In the village of Galaſhiels, 581;—in Lindean, 51;—in the country, 282. There are 209 families; of whom, 18 are farmers, 28 are cottars, whoſe reſidence depends on their remaining in the ſame ſervice; and all the reſt are leaſeholders for a longer or ſhorter time.

The number of deaths, marriages, and births cannot be aſcertained, becauſe many bury at Lindean, and ſome in other pariſhes; and many, from neighbouring pariſhes, bury at Galaſhiels. Many of different ſectaries alſo are not married by eſtabliſhed clergymen; and a ſtill greater number neglect to regiſter the births of their children. Yet the rapid increaſe of population, and thriving ſtate of the pariſh, are plainly evinced by this circumſtance, that, on the eſtate of Mr Scot of Gala alone, there have been built, within theſe 20 years, ſix farm houſes, with complete office-houſes, and 32 good dwelling houſes, in the village; beſides 39 dwelling houſes, (on a part of the pariſh of Melroſe, which lies immediately contiguous to it,) containing 201 inhabitants, not included in the above ſtatement; all of whom, except 4 families, removed from Galaſhiels, for the ſake of getting feus, in a ſpot more convenient for carrying on their buſineſs. This ſuburb, to which hitherto no reference has been made, muſt neceſſarily be included in the following information, relative to the diſeaſes, employment, character, and religious opinions of the inhabitants.

Air, Diſeaſes, &c.——From the nature of the ſoil, the air muſt be dry and healthy. There never was, in the memory of man, any deſtructive epidemical diſtemper in the pariſh. Even the ſmall-pox, meaſles, and chincough are not fatal, nor very infectious. Though each of theſe has repeatedly viſited the village, during the laſt 20 years, yet none of them, at any time, became general or violent among the children. One

half of them, at leaſt, eſcaped the infection, and very few of the other half died. Inoculation is gradually gaining ground. Perhaps the mildneſs of the natural ſmall-pox, makes its progreſs ſlower, than it otherwiſe might be. Agues, and ſlow fevers are the moſt prevalent diſeaſes; rheumatiſms and piles are not unfrequent. Fluxes and dyſenteries ſometimes make their appearance. But the far greater number of deaths is occaſioned unqueſtionably by ſevere labour, and want of proper attention to cleanlineſs, diet, and health.

Manufacture of Woollen Cloth.—The manufacture of coarſe woollen cloth is here carried on to great extent. It has rapidly increaſed within theſe few years, and is now brought to great perfection. From Midſummer 1774, to Midſummer 1775, only 722 ſtones of wool were manufactured into cloth by the clothiers, and ſcarcely as much more could be made by private perſons; whereas, in the current ſeaſon (1790) 243 packs of wool, (each pack containing 12 ſt. of 24 lib. Engliſh) have been purchaſed by the manufacturers; beſides which, they receive from different quarters, wool, yarn, and weaved cloth, to a conſiderable amount, to be dyed and dreſſed for private uſe, or for ſale. The higheſt price given, per ſtone, for wool, this ſeaſon, is 19s, and the loweſt 7s 9d; but in general, the quantity purchaſed is of that fineneſs, as to raiſe the average price to 15s per ſtone. The wool, being bought in fleeces, as it comes from the ſheep, muſt be aſſorted, ſcoured, and freed from refuſe, in which proceſs, it loſes at leaſt one-fourth of its weight. A ſtone of the fineſt of it, weighed after being thus prepared, will yield 32 ſlips of yarn, each containing 12 cuts, and each cut being 120 rounds of the legal reel. Of this yarn, 1300 threads is the greateſt number put into the breadth or warp of any web, which, when finiſhed, exceeds ſeven-eights of a yard in breadth, and fetches, in

ready money, at leaſt 5s per yard wholeſale from a dealer, or about 6s, when ſold in retail. The coarſeſt cloths are made of wool, which yields only, when ſcoured, 8 ſlips per ſtone. They are wove with no more than 600 threads of warp in the loom, are about ſix-eights of a yard in breadth, when finiſhed, and are ſold, in wholeſale to dealers, at 1s 4d per yard.—— From theſe facts, it ſeems fair to conclude, that the average produce of wool muſt be 20 ſlips of yarn per ſtone, and that the average price of cloth ſhould be 3s 2d per yard wholeſale. Yet, in fact, notwithſtanding the high average price of wool, and its conſequent fineneſs, the average quantity of yarn produced does not exceed 16 ſlips per ſtone, and the average price of cloth wholeſale, is ſcarcely 2s 6d per yard;—a ſtriking proof of its excellence. For all manufacturers know, that wool, ſpun beyond its fineneſs, makes unthrifty cloth; whereas a thread, coarſer than the wool will admit, is both more eaſily drawn; and more equal; and conſequently makes the fineſt and moſt durable cloth. In ſpinning wool, 241 women are conſtantly employed, beſides occaſional ſpinſters. Such of them, as have no avocations, will make 12 cuts in a day, for which they are paid 6d. But as family concerns, field and harveſt work, and ſuch other bye-jobs, take up a great part of their time, let 100 days in a year be allowed for theſe avocations, and ſtill, in the remaining days of the year, they would ſpin, at the above rate, more yarn, than can be produced from the 243 packs of wool, purchaſed for the current ſeaſon. Yet not only are they always furniſhed with as much wool as they can ſpin, but three machines alſo, with 30 and 36 ſpindles each, which, at an average, ſpin at leaſt 24 ſlips in a day among them, are employed always two, and often three days every week. In like manner, there are 43 looms in the village and ſuburbs, 9 of which are only occaſionally uſed by the aged and infirm, and by young boys. Suppoſing theſe 9, to

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be equal to 2 looms conſtantly occupied throughout the year; and ſuppoſing the 36 looms, thus made up, to weave only, at an average 7 yards raw cloth, which is equal to 4¾ yards, dreſſed cloth, each day, for 300 days in the year, they would thus weave ſeveral thouſand yards of more cloth, than can be made out of the above number of packs. Now, as many weavers are known not to be a week idle throughout the year, and ſome of them, for a courſe of weeks in temperate weather, work 12 and even 15 yards per day, the above computation is abundantly moderate. Again, every ſlip of yarn is allowed, by the manufacturers, to make, at an average, a yard of cloth, conſequently, from the 243 packs, containing 2916 ſtone, and each ſtone yielding 16 ſlips of yarn, there ſhould be produced 46,656 yards of cloth; yet, from the moſt accurate enquiry, the actual number cannot be found to exceed 43,740 yards. To reconcile theſe ſeemingly inconſiſtent circumſtances, let the following obſervations be attended to: 1ſt, Many neighbouring farmers reſerve ſome part of their wool, and many families in the village purchaſe ſmall quantities, which are ſpun at home during winter, or given out to be ſpun at the ordinary rate. The yarn is ſent to the weaver, the web to the dyer, or perhaps the wool, from the beginning, is committed to a clothier, to be manufactured into cloth. A great part of the cloth, thus made, is intended for the market, though moſt of it is generally for private uſe. Nor is it unuſual, for the manufacturers themſelves, to buy woollen yarn, and webs from the loom, to bring forward into cloth for ſale. In this manner, about 30 packs of wool may annually be ſpun and woven, beſides the quantity purchaſed by the manufacturers. 2dly, The manufacturers do not employ all their wool in making cloth. A conſiderable quantity of blankets, flannels, and worſted ſtuffs for womens gowns, and childrens frocks, are made both by them and private families. And

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ſome of the coarſeſt of their wool is ſold, and carried off for other purpoſes. And thirdly, The weavers, are occaſionally employed in working linens, cottons, and other ſtuffs, from mixtures made of linen, cotton, and worſted. As the actual number of yards woven annually by them, cannot be collected from their memories, or ſuch accounts as they keep, it muſt be calculated, by taking the whole 43 looms, at the low rate of 4 yards each of dreſſed cloth per day, and reckoning 300 days in the year, which will make them amount nearly to 52,000 yards of cloth of all kinds, ready for the market.

The price of weaving, including winding and preparing the yarn, &c. is from 2d. to 3½ per yard. Taking the average at 2¼, a weaver earns about 1s 7d. each day; and the 43 looms will draw about L. 1000 a year. A journeyman clothier gains 4s per week, beſides board; and being in conſtant employment through the year, without the expence of providing implements, for carrying on his work, his wages may be conſidered, as nearly equal to thoſe of the weaver.

Of thoſe who purchaſe wool, and ſuperintend the whole proceſs of making it into cloth, there are 13 maſters, who employ, at preſent, 50 journeymen and apprentices, in aſſorting, ſcouring, and ſcribbling the wool, before it is given out to ſpin; and in ſcouring, milling, dying, cropping, preſſing, and finiſhing off the cloth. The unwearied attention, which they beſtow on all the various departments of their complicated employment, and the proficiency, which they have attained, have obtained for them, many years ſucceſſively, almoſt all the premiums advertiſed by the Truſtees for cloth of 5, 4, 3, and 2s. value per yard. It is, however, on the whole, reckoned a diſadvantage, that ſo many different objects muſt occupy their attention. In England, there are *wool-ſorters*, who buy, and prepare the wool for ſpinning; *ſpinſters*, who buy it, and ſell the yarn to *weavers*; who again ſell the webs after

ter they are wrought and scoured. In some places they are purchased by *dyers*, and after being milled and dyed, are sold again to *those*, whose province it is to fit and polish them for the market. In other places the persons both dye and dress them.——From the materials thus becoming the actual property of those, through whose hands they pass, in the different stages of the work, it may be presumed, that the several parts of it will be more expeditiously and better done, to insure its selling quickly, and to good advantage. As spinsters will learn to examine the wool, weavers the yarn, and dyers the web, before making a purchase, all of them are thereby stimulated to take the greater care, to avoid all faults and blemishes, which would hurt the sale, or lessen the profits of their labour. Besides, it seems probable, that the fewer employments any man follows, the greater will be his proficiency in them. They, who constantly and exclusively are kept scribbling wool, will work more, and to better purpose, than others, who are accustomed equally to perform every branch of the manufacturing line. In like manner, the finest dye will always be given by him, whose sole business it is, to mix and prepare the colours, and fix them on the cloth. And the sweetest polish will come from the hand, which is only put forth to the shears, the tease, and the press.——In opposition, however, to this reasoning, specious and conclusive as it may appear, some intelligent manufacturers here prefer their own method, of conducting the whole process from first to last; asserting, that, from universal experience, the yarn and webs, which they purchase, are greatly inferior to those which are made under their own eye; and assigning, as the reason of this inferiority, that, having the absolute direction both of spinning and weaving, and a perfect knowledge of the respective abilities of such as they employ, in these departments, they must easily perceive, and can keep out of their

webs, all faulty yarn; they muſt be acquainted with all defects in weaving; and, if they are of a nature not to be corrected, or concealed by the ſubſequent operations, which the cloth undergoes, they can make both ſpinſters and weavers accountable for their ſeveral miſtakes, which cannot thus be amended. And the excellence of all cloth depending, in a great meaſure, on the equality of the yarn, both as to fineneſs and twiſting, they have the advantage of knowing and employing the hands, which come neareſt to each other in theſe reſpects, and the weavers, who excel in working finer or coarſer yarn.

Spinning machines poſſeſs one eminent advantage over common wheels. The yarn on 30, or 36 ſpindles, is all equally twiſted, and drawn to the ſame fineneſs. And from the nature of the motion, the twiſt cannot be hard, nor the thread fine, which renders the cloth ſoft, firm and durable. The moſt dexterous ſpinſter cannot twiſt ſo equally, and ſo gently, twenty ſlips of yarn, from wool of the ſame quality, as a machine can do twenty thouſand. And it is now univerſally agreed, that both warp and woof, twiſted as gently as the loom can admit, is moſt ſuſceptible of being driven cloſe by the mill, of receiving the ſtrongeſt dye, and of acquiring the ſmootheſt ſurface.

Artizans.——Beſides the manufacture of woollen cloth, which is no doubt the ſtaple of the pariſh, other branches are carried to a conſiderable extent. Ten perſons are employed, as ſkinners and tanners, who pay, for the white and tanned leather, which they make, from L. 66 to L. 98, of exciſe to Government, at an average, yearly. Seventeen are wrights, who, beſides jobbing as cabinet-makers, and houſe carpenters, and wheel and mill wrights, and making all the common implements of huſbandry, drive a very conſiderable trade,

by purchaſing growing timber, blocking it into ploughs, carts, hay-rakes, &c. annually, all which are ſold to plough and cart-wrights, and farmers, at a conſiderable diſtance. There are 3 black-ſmiths, 3 bakers, 5 ſhoemakers, and 9 taylors. The number of merchants and ſhop-keepers cannot eaſily be aſcertained, as almoſt every body buys and ſells or barters.

Church, Living, and School.——The pariſh church was originally ſituated at Lindean, to the ſouth of Tweed, but was removed, in the courſe of the laſt century, to Galaſhiels.—— The living, which is in the gift of Mr Scot of Gala, was, in 1775, augmented from L. 800, to L. 1000 Scots, with L. 4:3:4 ſterling, for communion elements; and the glebe, (including 9 bolls, 3 firlots of barley, Linlithgow meaſure, which the miniſter receives annually, for a part of it lying in Lindean,) will rent about L. 15 ſterling.——The ſchoolmaſter has L. 6:7:2 of ſalary, and from 80 to 120 ſcholars; a tolerable houſe, but no garden. There is alſo a ſchool at Lindean, with a ſmall ſalary, ſaid to be a part of the pariſh ſalary, granted when that village was conſiderable for the number of its inhabitants.

Heritors, Rent, &c.——There are only 6 heritors; 4 of whom have dwelling houſes in the pariſh, and two of theſe four are reſident. Their *cumulo* valued rent, is L. 8225:13:4 Scots: And their real rent may amount to L. 1600 ſterling, over and above all public burdens.

Poor.—The poor, at preſent, upon the roll, amount to 14, (13 of whom are females,) and that number may be taken as the average for 15 years paſt. Several others receive occaſional aid. The ſum levied and contributed, for their ſupport, annually

annually, is about L. 30, but it is gradually increaſing. As moſt of them can work, their allowance is but ſmall, in general, not above 9 d. per week, except in times of ſcarcity.

Diſadvantages.—The greateſt diſadvantage, which the pariſh and ſuburbs labour under, is no doubt their diſtance from lime and coals; both of which they bring from Middleton, 21 miles from Galaſhiels, and upwards of 24 miles from ſeveral places in the pariſh. Notwithſtanding this great diſtance, lime is found to be cheaper manure, and coals cheaper fuel, than the marle and peats in the ſouthern diſtrict, though both are excellent of their kinds.——Want of a poſt, is another material diſadvantage, to which the village is ſubjected. Offices are eſtabliſhed at Stagehall, Selkirk, and Melroſe. The firſt, a ſingle houſe, though fartheſt diſtant, is moſt convenient, being on the road to lime and coals; but, notwithſtanding the obliging care of the poſtmaſter there, the arrival of letters, 7 miles from a poſt-office, muſt always be tedious and uncertain. There is a certainty that the revenue, which is drawn there, would be at leſt trebled, were the office removed to Galaſhiels.—A third great inconvenience, which the manufacturers ſuffer, is want of a ſtock to carry on their work to a ſufficient extent; of conſequence, they are obliged to purchaſe on credit, and at a high rate, every neceſſary article of manufacture, and to ſell the produce inſtantly, at whatever ready money it will fetch. Whereas, were they able to pay at once for all they durchaſe, they would both have more profit, and they could continue to manufacture their goods, without being reduced to the neceſſity of diſpoſing of them, till a proper price could be obtained.

Character of the People.—In the pariſh and ſuburbs of the

village, there are no leſs than 15 houſes, where ale or ſpirits are retailed. Yet the people, in general, are ſober and induſtrious in the extreme. Not one is addicted to dram-drinking or tippling; and very rarely is a tradeſman, eſpecially a manufacturer, ſeen in liquor. A reſpectable number attend public worſhip in the eſtabliſhed church, and about 200 receive the ſacrament of our Lord's ſupper annually. At the ſame time, there are many, who adhere both to the Burgher and Antiburgher principles, and a few belong to the Church of Relief. There are alſo ſome claſſes of Independents, and Baptiſts; beſides ſeveral who diſclaim all attachment to any ſect whatſoever, and ſeem to have no fixed principles of religion. Concerning the numbers, and the peculiar tenets, of theſe various ſeparatiſts from the eſtabliſhment, the preſent incumbent has never been led to make any particular inquiry, from an opinion, that while they are peaceable and good members of ſociety, and "live ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly," the ſpeculative points, on which they may differ, are of very little importance. And it gives him much pleaſure, to find a ſpirit of forbearance and toleration univerſally prevailing, among all ranks and denominations in the pariſh *.

* For an anſwer to the queries relating to Roman and other antiquities, vid. Pennant's Tour, printed in 1772.

NUMBER XXIV.

PARISH OF COCKPEN.

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH.)

By the Rev. MR EBENEZER MARSHALL.

Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

THE pariſh of Cockpen, in the preſbytery of Dalkeith, ſynod of Lothian and Tweddale, and county of Edinburgh, extends, from ſouth to north, about 2 miles, and from eaſt to weſt, where it is broadeſt, a mile and a half. The ſouthern part of it is divided by the river South Eſk; over which, a ſtately bridge is thrown at Cockpen. Every where within the pariſh, the banks of the river are bold and beautifully fringed with natural wood.——The ſoil is a ſtrong clay; which, with proper cultivation, produces excellent grain, and in ſufficient quantities.—The climate is dry and pure.—In every part of the pariſh coal is to be found, and has, in ſeveral places, been wrought ſucceſsfully. Good free-ſtone abounds in it; and there is a ſort of moſs, from whence copperas has been extracted.

Proprietors.——There are 6 heritors; of whom, the Earl of Dalhouſie, has the largeſt property. His Lordſhip, and Sir James Murray, have their principal ſeats in the pariſh.—The caſtle

caſtle of Dalhouſie, a building of great antiquity, conſtructed in the old Scottiſh taſte, is pleaſantly ſituated on the northern bank of the river, which runs at a few yards diſtance from the foot of the walls. This caſtle was modernized by the late Earl of Dalhouſie, and has thereby loſt much of its former venerable aſpect. The grounds around it are, by nature, peculiarly adapted for extenſive and romantic pleaſure grounds. A little lower, on the oppoſite bank of the ſame river, ſtood the manſion houſe of Cockpen; lately purchaſed by the Earl of Dalhouſie, from Mr Baron Cockburn, by whom the adjacent lands had been incloſed and greatly improved. Along the ſteep and woody banks of the river, he had alſo formed various walks, at a great expence, and in the fineſt taſte, which are ſtill the delight of every viſitant; but a few bare walls are now all that remains of his hoſpitable manſion, ſerving, however, to increaſe the wild, and romantic beauty of the ſurrounding ſcenery.

Population.—By a liſt, found among the papers of the then incumbent, it appears, that, in 1749, there were in the pariſh, 160 families, containing 299 males, and 349 females, or 648 individuals; of which, 454 were above, and 194 under 10 years of age. The return to Dr Webſter was 640 ſouls. By an enumeration made by the preſent miniſter, in 1790, it was found, that there were 288 families in the pariſh, and 1123 individuals; 5 of whom were above 80, and 195 were diſſenters from the Eſtabliſhed Church. Thus, it appears, that the population has increaſed 475 in the ſpace of 40 years. There has been an increaſe, even ſince 1783, of 123. This addition was chiefly on the property of Mr Calderwod Durham, and has been occaſioned by a very flouriſhing coalliery, and by giving ſmall feus to induſtrious labourers, mechanics, and manufacturers.——The annual average of baptiſms, for 7

years

years, from 1741, was 25. For a like period, from 1784, it was 30.

Farms.—About 40 years ago, a number of ſmall farmers cultivated the lands in the pariſh, and lived in ſome degree of plenty: at preſent, 7 families, of that deſcription, occupy almoſt entirely the whole diſtrict. They diſcover a great ſpirit of enterprize and zeal for improvement, and live in a degree of affluence, unknown to their more humble predeceſſors.

Scarcity in 1782,—*and the Poor.*——During the ſcarcity which afflicted the kingdom, in the years 1782, and 1783, L. 43 : 10 : 3 was expended in relieving the neceſſities of the poor in this pariſh. Of that ſum, L. 30 was raiſed by an aſſeſſment upon the heritors and tenants. For ſome years afterwards, the number of poor was greater than uſual; but it is now diminiſhing, and the expenditure of 1789, for their ſupport, was no more than L. 13 : 16 : 9. This ſum is almoſt wholly collected at the church doors, from the labourers, mechanics, and farmers; who are, in general, very regular in their attendance on divine worſhip.

The number of poor relieved, from the funds of the pariſh, at preſent, is 11; and the moſt neceſſitous of them, do not receive above 3s 6d. monthly. Even this ſum, which is more than what is generally given, is but a ſcanty proviſion for a family, conſiſting of 2 or 3 perſons, who muſt depend upon their own induſtry, and labour for what they find to be farther neceſſary.—In the country part of the pariſh, inſtances of deep wretchedneſs, not unfrequently occur, from the inadequate means of relief, and the want of employment, ſuited to the ſtrength, or ſtate, of the feeble and the aged.

Rent, Stipend, Patron, &c.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 3068 : 19 : 8 Scots. The real rent may amount to L. 1450 ſterling. The miniſter's ſtipend is paid in victual and in money; and, according to the prices of grain, may, at an average, be worth L. 95 ſterling yearly. The glebe, by an exchange of part of it, which is to take place at the term of Martinmas 1791, will conſiſt of 6¼ acres arable, and one of paſture. The Earl of Dalhouſie is patron. The ſchoolmaſter receives of ſalary yearly L. 7 : 1, and has a very good dwelling-houſe and garden. The fees quarterly for teaching are 1s 2d for Engliſh, 1s 6d. for writing, and 2s 6d. for arithmetic.

Prices of Labour and Proviſions.—With the improvements of the country, which are every where advancing rapidly, the price of labour has been greatly increaſed. A day-labourer now earns from 10d to 14d per day. A ſervant-maid receives of wages yearly, from 50s to L. 3, and a ſervant-man from L. 6 to L. 7 ſterling. A maſon gets 2s. a day, and a carpenter 1s 6d. From the growing wealth and improvements of this country, the labourer, the mechanic, the manufacturer, trader, and landholder, are daily gaining ſome advantage; but thoſe of ſtated and fixed incomes are thereby ſuffering a conſiderable diminution, in the value of what they receive, proportionally to the riſe that takes place, in the price of labour and proviſions.

Rotation of Crops.—Every farmer, in this part of the country, puts a certain portion of his land into ſummer fallow. This he manures with dung and lime, and then ſows it with wheat. When it is thus freed from weeds, and enriched, the land produces, in wheat, from 8 to 10 bolls an acre, and ſometimes 12. A crop of peaſe is generally taken after the wheat, and then a crop of oats or barley. With the oats or barley,

barley, the ground is ſown with graſs ſeeds for a ſeaſon or two. When it is broken up it is ſown again with oats, and afterwards put into fallow. Turnip and potatoe crops are little uſed, and even barley does not always ſucceed upon the clay ſoil. The farmers have a ready market for their corn at Dalkeith, which is held weekly through the whole year; and is, perhaps, the greateſt corn market in Scotland.——An acre of good land lets here at 25s yearly.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—A few years ago, a ſilver penny, of Edward I. of England, was found in the glebe, and is now in the poſſeſſion of the miniſter. It might, perhaps, have been loſt at the battle of Roſlin, which was fought not far from this.——Sir Alexander Ramſay, of Dalhouſie, who lived in the 14th century, is celebrated as one of the braveſt warriors of that age. The Scottiſh youth were emulous of learning, under him, the art of war. His gallant behaviour at the battle of Otterburn, is celebrated by Froiſſart. He was appointed by his ſovereign, warden of the borders; and, from envy, was treacherouſly murdered by Douglas of Liddiſdale.——Some years ago, an attempt was made to encourage the raiſing of flax, and, by the aid of the Truſtees, a mill was fitted up for dreſſing it; but it was attended with no ſucceſs. There is, in the pariſh, a bleachfield, which, at preſent, is managed to conſiderable advantage.——For ſome years paſt, a large and heavy harrow has been employed with much effect in covering the ſeed upon the clay lands. A fine and deep mould is thereby formed, even in the dryeſt ſeaſon.

NUMBER XXV.

PARISH OF CRAILING.

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH.)

By the Rev. MR. DAVID BROWN.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.

THIS pariſh is ſituated in the county of Roxburgh, in the preſbytery of Jedburgh, and ſynod of Merſe and Teviotdale. In the records of preſbytery it is called, the united pariſhes of Crailing, Niſbet, and Spital. Crailing and Niſbet were diſtinct pariſhes, and Spital is ſaid to have been an hoſpital, belonging to the abbey at Ancrum. The time of annexation is very antient. It is of a circular form, near 4 Engliſh miles in diameter. The river Teviot flows eaſtward, in beautiful windings, through its centre *, where it is joined by the Oxnam from the ſouth, nearly at right angles.

About three fourths of the pariſh are arable land, very rich and fertile. The haughs, about a mile broad, in the middle of the pariſh, are of a deep loamy dry ſoil. Towards the ſouth, the

* The centre of the pariſh is 13 miles from Hawick, 7 from Kelſo, and 45 from Edinburgh.

the ground riſes gradually from the valley; the ſoil becomes of a ſharper, and more ſtoney kind, and then runs out into ſheep paſture. On the ſouthern boundary there are conſiderable plantations of wood; moſtly fir, except on the banks of the Oxnam, where there is a quantity of timber, of various ſorts, along the borders of a ſmall and romantic glen; in the bottom of which, there is a flat of rich paſture. The river winds through it, but occaſionally touches high and ſteep rocks, partly covered with natural wood. At the foot of this glen, are ſituated, Crailing houſe on one ſide of the Oxnam, and the manſe on the other. This ſpot is well adapted for beautiful pleaſure grounds; in the keeping up, and improving of which, the preſent proprietor is at conſiderable pains and expence. The grounds, on the ſouth ſide of the pariſh, are moſtly incloſed and ſubdivided with hedges, and rows of trees.

The north ſide of the pariſh contains little haugh land, the ground beginning to riſe more immediately from the river. The ſoil is rich and dry, fit for any crop. On the northern boundary, there is a conſiderable extent of ſheep paſture, in which, there is a beautiful green hill, called *Penelheugh*, the only one in the pariſh. The grounds on that ſide, though interſperſed with a few clumps of fir trees, are moſtly open; except towards the weſt, at Spital, now called Mount-teviot, where there are large incloſures, with hedge rows and belts of planting, and a conſiderable quantity of full grown timber.

This pariſh is a ſmall portion, but, at the ſame time, the loweſt, warmeſt, and moſt fertile, of that beautiful tract of corn country, on the banks of the Teviot, 20 miles in length, from Hawick to Kelſo, which is commonly known by the name of Teviotdale.

Climate, &c.——The climate is dry and wholeſome. No diſeaſes are peculiar to the pariſh; and the people are generally long lived. One man died a few years ago, who was ſaid to be 106. At preſent there are ſeveral perſons in the pariſh about 80, and likely ſtill to ſee many years.——There is a circumſtance, which may be mentioned here, as a proof of the mildneſs of the climate, and fineneſs of the ſoil of this pariſh, which took place in the late attempt, that was made to cultivate tobacco in Scotland: In one ſeaſon, a tenant, in this diſtrict, drew L. 115 for tobacco plants, and afterwards raiſed a crop on 12 or 13 acres, which he ſold upon the ground, for L. 320; but an act of parliament intervening, (the policy, or the juſtice of which, need not here be entered into,) the purchaſer was unable to fulfil his bargain, and the farmer was compelled to diſpoſe of his tobacco to Government, at only 4 d. per pound; at which rate, it brought him only L. 104. It appeared, from the trials made at that time, that tobacco would thrive well in the ſouthern parts of Scotland.

Rent of the Pariſh.——The valued rent is L. 8733 Scots. The real amounts to about L. 2500 ſterling. The rent of the beſt land in the pariſh, is L. 1: 10 per Engliſh acre. The land, in general, is let, not by the acre, but in the lump.

Number of Proprietors, Tenants, &c.—There are two great and one ſmall proprietor, or feuer in the pariſh. One of theſe, Mr Hunter of Crailing, reſides at his country ſeat during the ſummer. Mount-teviot-lodge, (a ſeat of the Marquis of Lothian,) has not been occupied by the family for ſome time paſt. There are four farmers, who pay L. 100; other four, upwards of L. 200, one L. 300 *per annum*; beſides

a

a number of ſmaller tenants. But there is not now in the pariſh, above one-third of the number, that there were 40 years ago.

Population.——The population of the country part of the pariſh, has, of late years, greatly diminiſhed, owing to the monopoly of farms. But, on the whole, the increaſe is conſiderable, when compared with the report made to Dr Webſter, in 1755, where it is ſtated, at only 387 ſouls. The number of perſons, at preſent, in the pariſh, by actual enumeration, are as follows:

Of the Eſtabliſhed Church - -	280	
Their children, under 10 years of age, or thereby - - - -	172	
		452
Seceders - - -	130	
Their children - - -	90	
		220
Total in the pariſh		672

The proportion of Seceders has been much about the ſame for many years.

The following is a ſtatement, extracted from the pariſh regiſter, of the births, marriages, and deaths, for the laſt ten years:

Abſtract

Abſtract of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1781	10	7	10
1782	18	10	14
1783	13	5	5
1784	24	4	2
1785	15	5	4
1786	22	5	1
1787	14	7	3
1788	18	5	7
1789	16	3	2
1790	13	9	7
	163	60	55
Yearly aver. near	16	6	5

The liſt of deaths is not very exact, as no record has been kept, of perſons belonging to this, who have been buried in other pariſhes.

State of Agriculture.——It is believed, that there is not, in any part of the kingdom, a better ſyſtem of agriculture. No expence is ſpared in procuring manure. Marle is got at Eckford, one mile diſtant; but lime is brought from Northumberland, about 23 miles. And one of the moſt conſiderable farmers in the pariſh, is this year making trial of gypſum, or plaiſter of Paris, which has, of late, been much recommended. The marle is ſold ſo high, that lime is reckoned cheaper, notwithſtanding the diſtance of carriage. The turnip, and every ſpecies of drill huſbandry, is carried on here in the higheſt

higheſt perfection. The plowmen of this pariſh, have, at no competition, been excelled in the neatneſs of their work; and the farmers are remarkable for keeping capital horſes, and equipping them to the beſt advantage. No ſight can be more delightful, to one who is fond of a country life, than to ſurvey the rich haughs of Crailing, and the fields of Niſbet, in a fine morning, during the beſt ſeaſons, for the toils of agriculture.

Crops.—This pariſh produces a great proportion of wheat, beſides all the other kinds of grain of the beſt quality. The culture of turnips is much attended to, and with great ſucceſs. They are generally eaten by ſheep on the fields. The ſheep are incloſed by nets, made for the purpoſe; by means of which, 400 or 500 are confined within the bounds of 4 or 5 Engliſh acres at a time, till the turnips are all conſumed. The ground being well prepared for the turnips, and thoroughly cleaned while the crop is upon it, the neceſſity of ſummer fallowing is precluded, and is, therefore, ſeldom practiſed in this pariſh. The ſheep leave the ground richly manured, and wheat is generally ſown upon fields thus prepared, any time before Chriſtmas. There are, upon an average, about 220 acres of turnip annually conſumed in this pariſh, by ſheep from neighbouring pariſhes, and from the Engliſh border, which are thereby thoroughly fed for the market, to the number of about 2200, allowing 10 ſheep to an acre. Such turnips, as are not conſumed in this way, (which are not a few,) are given, by the farmers, to their young ſtock, both of cattle and ſheep. The turnips, that are late of being conſumed, are ſucceeded by a crop of barley, which is frequently accompanied with graſs-ſeeds. The crops of this pariſh, and of Eckford to the eaſt, are generally more early, than even thoſe of the Lothians.

Price

Price of Labour.—The average wages of a man-ſervant, living in the houſe, are about L. 7; thoſe of a woman about L. 3: 10. The wages of men-labourers, furniſhing their own meat, are 10d. a day, from Martinmas to Candlemas, and 1s the reſt of the year, except in time of harveſt, when they are ſomewhat higher. The wages of women are, at turnip-weeding, and other farm-work, in ſummer, 7d a day, and at ſhearing in harveſt, 1s, furniſhing their own victuals.

Carts and Ploughs.—There are 48 carts and 44 ploughs. The ploughs are of Small's conſtruction; and though all made in the pariſh, they are not inferior to his manufacture. They are always drawn by a pair of horſes, and one man both drives and holds the plough.

Animals, Fiſh, &c.—There are about 140 horſes and 350 black cattle in the pariſh. The ſtock of ſheep is about 2400. The breed is between the beſt border ewes, and Bakewell's and Culley's tups. The lambs, for ſome years paſt, have ſold at from 8s to 11s a head; the wool is all laid, and ſells at about 86s per ſtone of 24 Engliſh lb. from 3 to 8 fleeces go to the ſtone. Such is the attention here paid to the culture of ſheep, that many are bred and reared even on the beſt grounds.

The rivers Teviot and Oxnam, already mentioned, abound with great variety of trout. Vaſt numbers of ſea trout come up in ſummer and autumn, and afford excellent ſport to the angler. There are ſome pike of a large ſize in the back-waters or deſerted channels of the Teviot. There are a great many grilſe, and ſome ſalmon in that river.

Mineral Spring.—The only thing of the kind in the pariſh, and that even ſcarcely worth mentioning, is a ſmall ſpring near the manſe, within a few yards of the miniſter's well, of

which the common people talk very highly, as a cure for the cholic.

Villages.—There are three villages in the pariſh, viz. Crailing, and Upper and Nether Niſbet. But, indeed, they ſcarcely deſerve the name of villages, being inhabited only by ſuch labourers and tradeſmen, as are neceſſary for the purpoſes of the neighbouring farmers.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—The preſent church and manſe were built about 35 years ago. The church is ſmall, but handſome, well-finiſhed, and in good repair. It ſtands remote from all other buildings, on a ſmall eminence near the ſouth bank of the Teviot, where that river is joined by the Oxnam, which is about the centre of the pariſh. When this church was built, the church of Niſbet was thrown down, and not a veſtige of it now remains. The hoſpital and chapel at Spital were long ago demoliſhed, and even the burying-ground there has been totally abandoned for many years. Nothing but a few tomb ſtones now mark the place, and theſe are almoſt grown over with trees and weeds. But the burying-ground at Niſbet is ſtill uſed, by all the Niſbet and Spital ſide of the pariſh.—There are no remains of the old church of Crailing, which ſtood within a few yards of Crailing houſe; but the pariſhioners on Crailing ſide, and ſome alſo, who have left the pariſh, ſtill inſiſt upon uſing the old burying-ground, although the proprietor of Crailing has, in lieu of it, given them an ample ſpace around the new church; and although their late miniſter ſet them an example, by erecting there a tomb for himſelf ſome years before he died.—The manſe ſtands upon the old ſite of Crailing manſe, nearly about half a mile ſouth from the preſent church. The king is patron. The living conſiſts of 85 bolls of meal, and a little more than 75 bolls of barley, Linlith-

gow meaſure. The miniſter is titelar of the vicarage tithes, conſiſting of lambs, wool, lint, hemp, hay, &c. which he lets at preſent for L. 30 : 10 ſterling. It is believed they may be rented conſiderably higher. There is likewiſe a glebe of 9 acres and 17 poles Engliſh, and a manſe, &c. all which are in value according to the rate of the times.

There is no diſſenting meeting-houſe in the pariſh. The Seceders here are accommodated at Jedburgh, which is about 3 miles diſtant.

State of the Schools.—There are two eſtabliſhed ſchools in the pariſh, viz. one at Crailing, and one at Niſbet. The ſchoolmaſter of Crailing has L. 5 : 11 1⅓, as ſalary, and about L. 3, as being pariſh and ſeſſion clerk. He has alſo the intereſt of money, left by bonds for his uſe, to the amount of L. 3 : 15 *per annum.* The ſchoolmaſter of Niſbet has L. 2 : 15 : 6⅔, as ſalary, and 10s for collecting the poor's rates of the barony of Niſbet. The ſchool-fees are very ſmall, being, for Engliſh, 1s. per quarter, for Engliſh and writing, 1s 6d. and for Engliſh, writing, and arithmetic, 2s 6d. The annual average number of ſcholars, for the laſt 6 years, has been 48 at Crailing ſchool, and 36 at Niſbet.

State of the Poor.—They are ſupported by poors rates. It is found, by written records, that, between 30 and 40 years ago, the poor in this pariſh, in number about 8 perſons, were ſupported, or relieved in their own houſes, for about L. 14 ſterling *per annum.* Of late years, about 14 perſons, at an average, have been maintained in the ſame way, for L. 27 *perannum.*

Roads, Bridges, and Boats.—The turnpike road on the ſouth banks of the Teviot, betwixt Hawick and Kelſo, paſſes through this

this pariſh. The other roads are kept in repair by ſtatute money. There is a bridge over the Oxnam, near the manſe, which is the only one in the pariſh. It was built about 20 years ago, by ſubſcription, and is ſtill in good repair; it will no doubt be upheld by the turnpike funds.——The neareſt bridge over the Teviot, is that at Ancrum, a ſhort way above. But, for the conveniency of the pariſh, the heritors uphold a boat, and pay a boatman. To this they are bound, on account of the annexation of Niſbet and Spital to the church of Crailing; and on Sundays no fare is exacted, from perſons attending the pariſh church.

Antiquities.——A Roman road or cauſeway paſſed through the weſt part of this pariſh, the traces of which are ſtill to be ſeen. There are alſo veſtiges of two encampments on the top of Penelheugh; and that they belonged to the Romans, we are led to conjecture, from their vicinity to that road. One of them ſeems to have been ſtrongly fortified, and though now totally demoliſhed, it ſtill retains the name of the Caſtle.—The ſite of it is very high, and commands a moſt extenſive proſpect; taking in at once all the windings of the Teviot from Hawick to Kelſo, and part of the ſeveral beautiful ſtreams which join it in that courſe. The whole county of Berwick is alſo ſeen from it, and a part of the German ocean. The view is bounded on the ſouth by the lofty mountains of Cheviot, and, on the north, by the Lammermuir hills.

Niſbet is noted, by tradition, for being a ſtrong-hold of ſome of the antient marauders of the border. Many perſons are yet living, who remember the ruins of two ſtrong towers at the village of Nether Niſbet, and ſtones of excellent workmanſhip are ſtill dug up from time to time. It alſo deſerves to be mentioned, on account of its antiquity, and the ſingularity of its tenure; that the proprietor of the barony of Crai-

ling is bound to furniſh, a guard of his own vaſſals, for the circuit Court of Juſticiary, when it meets at Jedburgh. On this account, there is annexed, to that barony, the property of ſome acres of land at Lanton, in the pariſh of Jedburgh, which is called the Crowner's lands.

Diſadvantages.—It is a diſadvantage, to which the loweſt haughs of the pariſh are liable, that the rivers ſometimes ſwell to ſuch a height, as to carry off either the corns when cut, or the manure, when lying on the ſurface, and thus to deſtroy the labours of the farmer. What renders theſe floods more deſtructive is, that they are often unexpected, and ſudden, by great rains falling in the diſtant mountains, when no ſymptoms are perceived by the inhabitants of this, and of the neighbouring vallies.

But the chief and general diſadvantage of this pariſh, is, the diſtance from coal, and the great expence of land carriage, on that and all other commodities. Although a conſiderable quantity of fire-wood is annually ſold at Crailing plantations, yet it is generally thought, that coals are the cheapeſt fuel. They are brought from Etal in Glendale, and from Rycheſter on Reid water, a branch of the Tyne, both in Northumberland, and both diſtant about 23 miles. But ſtill it is ſome comfort to obſerve, that theſe coals are of a very excellent quality.

Means of Improvement—The improvements of this pariſh, and of the neighbouring diſtricts in general, have been very rapid for ſome years, owing to the eſtabliſhment of turnpike roads, and to the great ſucceſs in the culture of turnip; and it is hoped, that there will ſoon be an eaſy communication with the German ocean, by means of the propoſed canal. If that ſhould take place, it will neceſſarily lead to the eſtabliſhment of manufactures, and thereby increaſe the population, extend the improvements, and double the value of eſtates in this part of the kingdom.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXVI.

PARISH OF MORHAM.

(COUNTY OF EAST LOTHIAN.)

By the Rev. MR. CARFRAE.

Name, &c.

THE pariſh of Morham is, perhaps, the ſmalleſt, both with reſpect to population and extent, in Scotland. It has neither trade, nor manufactures of any kind;—it has neither mines nor minerals;—it has neither towns, nor villages, nor rivers;—it has neither any antiquities, nor natural curioſities of any importance;—nor has it been the ſcene of any remarkable tranſactions;—conſequently, ſtatiſtical inveſtigation, muſt be extremely limited, and the anſwers to enquiries of that nature much confined, both as to their kind, and number.

It is not an eaſy matter, for a perſon, ignorant of the language of the antient inhabitants of this country, to explain, with accuracy, the origin of the names of towns and places. Indeed there is no point more undetermined. With a wide field, for fanciful ſpeculation, there is no regular certain rule to direct our reſearch. Names of places are often chimerical, arbitrary, and accidental: Some have ariſen from circumſtances long paſt and forgotten, and, which the moſt accurate inquiry

quiry cannot trace back; and others have been eſtabliſhed by trifling accidents, which deſerved no record at the time, and merit no inveſtigation now. The moſt obvious, are thoſe which obtained names from their local ſituation, from the lord of the manor, or the proprietor of the ſoil; and when theſe are obvious and apparent, it is idle to trace them to ideal foundations, which never exiſted. The writer of this paper muſt acknowledge himſelf ignorant of the origin or derivation of the name given to the pariſh. But, were he inclined to indulge himſelf in conjectural explanations, he would be apt to ſay, that Morham is the Great Town, or Village; for if *more* ſignifies *great*, and *ham* a *town* or *village*, the origin of the name is ſufficiently plain. There is indeed no village now in the diſtrict, to eſtabliſh that derivation; but many circumſtances prove, that there was one in antient times, of conſiderable extent. In particular, there was formerly a caſtle in this place, ſituated on an eminence, near the church, of conſiderable magnitude and ſtrength; the reſidence no doubt, of the lord of the manor, and built, as was the cuſtom of the times, as a place of ſecurity and defence, againſt the hoſtile incurſions of the enemy. A village, in former days, was almoſt the neceſſary conſequence of a ſtrong caſtle, and a powerful baron. In thoſe ages of violence and hoſtility, when life and property were not, as now, ſecured by law, and protected by government, it was natural for the lower claſs of mankind, to look for protection from their immediate ſuperior, and take up their dwelling under the ſhelter of his caſtle, where they would not only obtain employment and ſubſiſtence, in the various departments of his houſehold, but alſo a ſafe reſidence, and protection againſt the ſudden incurſions of turbulent neighbours, or national foes. Although there is not one ſtone of the caſtle, now alluded to, left upon another, yet there are many people alive, who remember the remains of it,

it, and ſpeak of it as a large and extenſive ſtructure. It had evidently been of ſuch magnitude and ſtrength, as to be the means of raiſing a conſiderable village; for although there are only a few houſes remaining near the ſite of the old foundations, yet the village had extended conſiderably weſtward; for, at the diſtance of a quarter of a mile, a few cottages ſtill remain, which retain the name of the *Weſt Gate-end.*

Situation, Extent, &c.—Morham is ſituated in the county of Eaſt Lothian, in the preſbytery of Hadington, and ſynod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It is bounded by the pariſh of Garveld on the ſouth, Yeſter on the Weſt, Hadington on the north, and Whittingham on the eaſt. It is about 3 miles from the town of Hadington, where there is an excellent market, for all the articles, which the pariſh has occaſion, either to ſell, or to purchaſe. In regard to extent, it is little more than 2 miles in length from eaſt to weſt, and from one to half a mile from South to North; containing, in all, about 1400 Scottiſh acres, divided into 6 farms; one of which, being of a mooriſh thin clayey ſoil, contains 500; the other five, having good ſoil, conſiſt of from 150 to 200 acres each. The property is almoſt equally divided between two heritors, the Earl of Wemyſs, (and Sir David Dalrymple) Lord Hailes.

The groſs rent of the pariſh may be about L. 800 ſterling. The lands are moderately rented, the proprietors being convinced, that it is for the mutual advantage of the landlord and tenant, that their farms ſhould be let on ſuch eaſy and reaſonable terms, as will enable the tenant to provide for his family, and prevent his ſchemes of improvement from being cramped and impeded, by neceſſity. In conſequence of this wiſe maxim having been adopted, agriculture is in a ſtate of very high improvement, the pariſh is almoſt wholly incloſed, and will be entirely ſo in the courſe of a few years. The ſoil, inclin-

ing a good deal to clay, is not favourable to the culture of turnips and potatoes: both, however, are raiſed in a moderate degree, the laſt to the greateſt extent; as, beſides what the tenant raiſes for himſelf, every cottager, is, by bargain, or favour, allowed to plant a certain quantity for the uſe of his family. They eſteem this root both a pleaſant and nutritious food; and it is one of the principal articles, on which they ſubſiſt, for a conſiderable part of the year. Excellent crops of all kinds of grain are raiſed; but the modes of croping are various, adapted to the varieties of the ſoil. The greateſt improvement is that of turning the land frequently, for a few years, into paſture. It is found to be the beſt reſtorative, where adventitious manure cannot be had. Lime, of which there is great plenty, at the diſtance of 3 or 4 miles, is ſtill moderately uſed. But lime, being a ſtimulus, and not a manure, has not the ſame advantageous effect, when frequently repeated.

As agriculture is the prevailing, and almoſt the only occupation in the pariſh, and the whole of the grounds being arable, there are a great many ploughs, in proportion to the extent of the diſtrict. The number kept by the tenants, is about 20; and, as they uniformly plow with two horſes, the quantum of draught horſes, can be eaſily aſcertained; but, beſides theſe, there are many young horſes bred, as the high price they bring at market has tempted moſt of the tenants to rear them, not only to ſupply their own demands, but to ſell to dealers, ——There are no ſheep bred in the pariſh; but a conſiderable quantity are fed in the incloſed paſture grounds for ſlaughter.

Population.——The return made to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 745 ſouls. That number, however, has ſince diminiſhed.——The frequent union of farms, the ploughing with two horſes

horſes without a driver, the increaſed quantity of graſs grounds, the decreaſe in the number of cot-houſes, and the many improvements and changes, which have taken place in the mode of agriculture, ſince that period, has leſſened the population of moſt country pariſhes; whilſt the rapid progreſs of trade and manufactures has greatly increaſed the population of the towns. During the laſt 24 years, the period of the preſent incumbent's ſettlement, ending in 1790, there has been little difference in this important article; but the decreaſe on the whole, within theſe 40 years, amounts to 55. The population, as it ſtood in March 1791, was as follows:

Under 8 years of age - - -	32
At and above that age - - -	158
Total	190

There are, at an average, from 5 to 6 births, from 1 to 2 marriages, and from 3 to 4 deaths in the pariſh every year.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.—Sir David Dalrymple is patron. The ſtipend has too great an affinity to the pariſh, and conſequently is ſmall; but, the real rental being inconſiderable, a much greater income could not be expected. The manſe and offices are in good condition. The people, in general, are of the eſtabliſhed religion. From the pariſh lying in the vicinity of Hadington, there are houſes of worſhip for moſt of the different deſcriptions of ſectaries. There are a few Seceders, but theſe being all in the claſs of ſervants, and having no uniform local reſidence, their number muſt occaſionally vary. There are none of the epiſcopal or popiſh perſuaſion.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations—There is a parochial ſchool, with a legal ſalary. The number of the ſcholars is from 30 to 40. The Engliſh language, writing, and arithmetic, are princi-

pally taught. The ſchoolmaſter is qualified to teach Latin grammar, and has occaſionally a few Latin ſcholars.——— There are generally three or four old perſons on the parochial poor's roll. They are ſupported by the intereſt of a ſmall ſum of money, and the weekly collections at the church door on Sunday. That fund is ſufficient for the claims that are upon it; nor has there been occaſion as yet for any legal aſſeſſment. The extent of the pariſh being ſo exceedingly ſmall, it is the leſs neceſſary to make any particular obſervations with regard to climate, air, diſeaſes, &c. In general, it may be obſerved, that the inhabitants of this, like thoſe of other country pariſhes, detached from great towns, the nurſeries of licentiouſneſs and diſſipation, are ſober and induſtrious: As a proof of which, it may be ſaid, in their favour, that during the laſt 24 years, and probably for a period ſtill more remote, that nothing has happened to call for the intervention of the civil magiſtrate.

NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF GLENCAIRN.

(COUNTY OF DUMFRIES.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM GRIERSON.

Name, Situation, &c.

GLENCAIRN has always been reckoned one of the moſt conſiderable country pariſhes, in the ſouth of Scotland, for extent, valuation, and number of inhabitants. It lies in the preſbytery of Penpont, and ſynod of Galloway, about ten computed miles from Dumfries. The length, from eaſt to weſt, is about 11 computed miles: The breadth varies. To the weſt, it lies along three ſmall rivers, called Caſtlefairn, Craigdarroch, and Dalwhat; which, are divided from each other, by very high and ſteep hills, moſtly green, and meet at the village of Minniehive, which is the only one in the diſtrict, about two miles from the church. The reſt of the pariſh lies on both ſides of the Cairn, the name by which the three rivers thus united is known: and Glencairn ſeems to be ſo called, from the great hollow or glen, along which the river paſſes, and a huge cairn, or heap of ſtones, of unknown antiquity, where it firſt has the name of Cairn given to it.

Eccleſiaſtical State, Schools, &c.—The Duke of Queensberry

is patron; but has no land in the pariſh.——The preſent ſtipend is L. 88: 17: 9¼ ſterling, including 100 merks for communion elements, all paid in money. It is the ſame now that it was about 60 or 70 years ago. With the addition of the manſe and glebe, it may be worth about 100 guineas *per annum.*

There is an Antiburgher meeting-houſe near Minniehive; but that ſect ſeems rather on the decline. There are likewiſe a few Cameronians in the pariſh: but neither of theſe, nor indeed both together, bear any proportion to thoſe who attend the Eſtabliſhed Church.

There are two public ſchools; the one for Latin, with a legal ſalary of L. 8: 6: 8 ſterling; the other for Engliſh, writing, and arithmetic, with a ſalary of L. 4, by private donation. Theſe ſchools uſed to be kept at the church, and at Minniehive, four years alternately at each, by order of the heritors; but that rotation has not been obſerved for ſeveral years paſt.

Population and Villages.——This pariſh is ſuppoſed to have been, at leaſt, as populous formerly, as at preſent; as there are very many veſtiges of houſes and of cultivation, where, at preſent, there are none; and many farms, of late years, have been thrown into the hands of a few tenants, who often place only a herd upon one or more of them, where they themſelves do not reſide. The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 1794 ſouls. There are now about 1400 perſons above 7 or 8 years of age, and conſequently about 1700 in all.——No exact regiſter of marriages, baptiſms, or burials, having been kept, it is impoſſible to give any authentic information reſpecting their increaſe or decreaſe ſince that period.

A large addition, however, has been made to the village of Minniehive, within theſe 20 or 30 years, by Mr Ferguſſon of Craigdarroch's

Craigdarroch's feus. It is divided from Dunreggan by Dalwhat-water, over which, there is ſtone bridge.——— Dunreggan, which is on the property of Mr Ferguſſon of Cailloch, is little inferior to Minnichive, in extent or number of houſes, which are annually increaſing. The far greater part of them has been built within theſe 20 or 30 years. In the two villages, there are 98 families.

Poor.—Public collections, in particular caſes of great diſtreſs, are ſometimes made; but the intereſt of L. 120 ſterling, and the common weekly collections on Sunday, are all the ſtated ſupplies for the ordinary poor of the pariſh. For theſe 8 or 10 years paſt, L. 30 has been annually expended on the poor, from theſe ſources, one year with another.

Rent.—The valuation of the pariſh is 12,062$\frac{1}{2}$ merks. As ſeveral of the heritors poſſeſs their own lands, it is difficult to aſcertain the real rent; but it is believed to amount to between L. 8000 and L. 9000 ſterling.——There are about 90 farms in this diſtrict, ſeveral of them conſiderable; and frequently united in the poſſeſſion of one tenant. In four of the ſmaller ſort, two of which are led, (i. e. the tenant does not reſide upon them,) there are 25 perſons, old and young, 20 ſcore of ſheep, 110 black cattle, and 6 horſes; and the rents may amount to L. 170 ſterling. This may ſerve to give ſome idea of the value of the whole.

Antiquities.——There is a mount, commonly called a Moat, about half a mile from the church, very ſteep, and of conſiderable height, occupying about an acre of ground, and evidently made by art. It is of an oblong form, with an earthen turret at each end, having a deep trench on the inſide of each turret. One of theſe turrets, and the baſe of the mount, in

that

that part, are a good deal impaired, through time, by a rivulet. There is another moat, or artificial mount, preciſely of the ſame form, and quite entire, at the march of the pariſh, ſouth-weſt, but within that of Balmaclellan. Concerning the one in this pariſh, there are ſome fabulous and ſuperſtitious traditions, not worth mentioning. The moſt common and credible account given of it is, that it was intended to be a kind of watch-tower, or a place for the exerciſe of archery, in times of public danger.

Lake.—At the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the pariſh, there is a loch, called Loch-Orr, out of which the river Orr iſſues. It borders with the pariſhes of Glencairn, Dunſcore, and Balmaclellan, and is about 3 Engliſh miles round. It is 9 fathoms at the deepeſt, and ſurrounds a ſmall iſland, where there are the remains of a ſtone wall, which appears to have been originally of great ſtrength, and contains within it ſeveral apartments now in ruins. Its water appears extremely black, the ground under and about it, being generally moſs covered with heath. A vaſt number of water fowls bring forth their young on the iſland, where there are ſome buſhes. Eagles have been known to breed on it. At the extremity of the loch, there is a peninſula cut by a deep trench. The only fiſh in it are pike, (ſome of which are ſaid to be about 5 feet 10 inches long,) and a few very large trouts.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations and Manners.——There are no manufactures carried on in this pariſh, the greater part of the inhabitants being employed in farming, droving, handy-crafts, and common labour. If the great road from Wigton to Galloway were completed, and that from Ayr to Dumfries, by Dalmellington, brought into this pariſh, at the head of Craigdarroch, (which only wants about 5 miles), conſiderable

advantage

advantage might be expected to this part of the country in general, and particularly to Minniehive. That village, and its neighbourhood, are much at a loſs for fuel. Peats muſt be brought at the diſtance of at leaſt 6 or ſeven miles; and coals from Sanquhar, which is not leſs than 13 computed miles.—Trials for coals, at different times, have been made in ſeveral places much nearer, with a good proſpect of ſucceſs; but, after all, they have hitherto proved fruitleſs.

The land in general is good. The holms and meadows upon the ſides of the rivers, are fertile. Next to theſe, on the riſing grounds, there is a light, warm, kindly, arable ſoil; and, in the higheſt parts, there is fine paſture for all ſorts of cattle, particularly ſheep. The rivers are very rapid, and often overflow their banks, to the great damage of the land adjacent.

The people are, in general, healthy; and ſeveral, now alive, as well as others lately dead, have arrived at 80 years of age, and upwards. Their houſes and dreſs, of late, have been much improved; and, in the latter of theſe reſpects, people of every claſs ſeem to be running into an extreme. The manners of the people, in general, are very agreeable, mild, courteous, and obliging; and they are diſtinguiſhed for hoſpitality, and natural civility to ſtrangers.——The diſeaſes, which prevail moſt, are rheumatiſms, and pains in the ſtomach and bowels; owing, perhaps, to the low and damp ſituation of their houſes, moſt of which are placed too near the rivers.—The water is of an excellent quality; light, clear, and ſoft. The ſtreams abound with trout, as the hills do with game.

Property has, of late, been much divided, by the ſale of ſome large eſtates, particularly, that of Sir Robert Laurie of Maxwelltown. There are now 27 heritors. Some years ago, there were only 18.

The charity and benevolence of the rich, has in general

been found adequate to the neceſſities of the poor, who are pretty numerous, as their occupations, while in health, can only ſupply their preſent exigencies, and do not enable them to lay up for old age and diſeaſe. The charge of living, and the hire of labourers, and ſervants of every denomination, continually increaſes. A common labourer gets L. 6 or 8, and ſome L. 10, in the year, beſides bed, board, and waſhing; and 8d. or, indeed, at ſome employments, 1s. per day, beſides victuals. There are, however, as yet, but few who get ſo much as L. 10 a year; and theſe are commonly ſuch as have the charge and direction of others, beſides working themſelves. But if things go on, as they have done for ſome years paſt, ſuch high wages will doubtleſs become more frequent. All theſe circumſtances bear very hard upon thoſe, who have but a limited income, ſuch as was barely ſufficient for a decent ſupport, in their reſpective ſtations, 60 or 70 years ago.

NUMBER XXVIII.

PARISH OF WHITTINGHAM.

(COUNTY OF EAST LOTHIAN.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN EWAN.

Situation, and Extent.

THE pariſh of Whittingham is ſituated in the preſbytery of Dunbar, and ſynod of Lothian and Tweeddale. It extends, from north to ſouth, between 10 and 11 miles, and from eaſt to weſt, (where it is broadeſt,) about 4. It may be conſidered under two diſtinct heads, the Lamer-moor, or upper, and the arable, or lower diſtrict.

Lamer-moor.—The word, Lamer-moor, imports, it is ſaid, the moor which reaches to the ſea *.——It deſerves attention, that, in the Roman province, which was ſituated between the wall of Hadrian, and that of Severus, we meet with no other mooriſh hills, that extend quite to the ſea. They begin at Coldinghame, in the Merſe, and Dunglaſs in Eaſt Lothian; both which places ſtand cloſe upon the ſea, and run weſt-

* *Moor ſur la mer.* Others imagine, that it is the moor where lambs were more abundant, than in any other part of Scotland.

ward, with a broad ſurface, from 30 to 40 miles, and at length terminate at Soutra-hill. They are interſected by various openings, lying in different directions, with ſtreams of water collected from the eminencies on each ſide, running through the bottoms.

Within theſe hills there are ſix ſheep farms, belonging to the pariſh of Whittingham *; moſt of which are extenſive. The greateſt part of the land, in that part of the country, is covered with heath, excepting ſome narrow ſtripes, which are ſometimes plowed, and, when the ſeaſon is favourable, produce tolerable crops; but, as it is very late, before the crops arrive at maturity, if the froſt ſets in ſoon, the grain is deſtroyed. The moſt dreary, wild, and uncomfortable of theſe farms, is Kilpallet, conſiſting of about 1500 acres, rented only at L. 16.

Camp.——In this part of Lamer-moor, on the farm of Prieſt-law, at the ſouth eaſt extremity of the pariſh, there is a ſtrong encampment, or fortification; all the parts of which are ſtill entire. The country people are generally of opinion, that it was a Roman camp; but the appearance of it renders this opinion improbable;—for it is well known, that the Romans marked out their camps in the figure of a ſquare. This antient work ſtands on a kind of promontory, formed by the junction of the water of Whittater, on the north, and Kinſly on the eaſt. The elevation of the ground, on the ſide of Kinſly,

* In one of theſe ſheep farms, the river Whittater, or Whitewater, takes its riſe, near the outſide, towards the north. It runs, with a winding courſe, through the Merſe, and falls into the Tweed, about 4 miles above Berwick. It is noted for plenty of excellent trout.

ly, will be about 100 feet, and on that of Whitewater, about 150: on the ſouth ſide, the ground is nearly level, to ſome diſtance from the fortification, and then riſes gradually up to the ſummit of Prieſt-law. The camp is of an oval form, with the broadeſt end, which is inacceſſible, towards the north. On one ſide are four ditches, parallel to each other, and the diſtance, between each, may be 12 yards.——On the north ſide are three ditches, and the outer ditch is carried round the whole. The circumference of this military work will meaſure about 2000 feet.—In one place, on the north, the rock is cut in a ſlanting form, down to the bed of Whittater below; and, it is probable, that, through this paſſage, the camp was ſupplied with water. There are three gates or entries, one on the ſouth ſide, which is 40 feet wide; another on the eaſt, and the third on the weſt, which are 20 feet wide each. It is probable, that this fortification was conſtructed by the Scots, the Engliſh, or the Danes.

Sheep.——The paſture, in this part of the pariſh, is only fit for breeding ſheep. The farmers, therefore, every year, ſell as many of them as they can part with, to the graziers, in the low country, who carry them to their rich paſtures, and fatten them for the butcher. The number of ſheep, kept on theſe farms, exceeds 300 ſcores in ſummer, but is much ſmaller in winter. The farmers, of this diſtrict, bring annually to the market, about 1700 ſtone of wool. This commodity has ſold, for the three laſt years, at from 6s. to 8s. 6d. ſome at 9s. per ſtone. The average is from 7s. to 7s. 3d. per ſtone: 14 years ago, the average would be about 6s. 9d. or ſomewhat leſs; but in 1782, in did not exceed 4s. What would now bring 6s. was not then worth more than 2s. per ſtone.

The farmers, in this part of Lamer-moor, ſell annually, at an average, about 30 ſcore of ewes, and about 60 or or 65

ſcore of wedders. The ewes, for the laſt 3 years, have fetched from 9s 6d. to 12s 6d. a head. The whole of theſe ſheep are not fed on the farms; about 20 ſcore of wedder hogs being annually brought from Tweeddale, at from 8s. to 10s. a head. Scarce any black cattle are bred here; perhaps 6 or 8, in a ſeaſon, which ſell from L. 3 to L. 5.

Smearing Sheep.—Smearing is a practice, which univerſally prevails throughout all Lamer-moor. A compoſition is made of tar and butter, or oil; and this mixture is laid on, or ſpread over the whole body, ſoon after the ſeparation of the fleece, or at the commencement of winter. It is thought, that this greatly contributes to preſerve the animal from vermin; to improve, and even increaſe the quantity of wool, and to ſecure it firmly to the body, ſo as to hinder any part of it from falling off. This fact having been controverted, ſome ſtore-maſters have made an experiment of the effects, that would be produced by omitting this operation; and, it is ſaid, the reſult was, that the animal was more infeſted with vermin, more ſickly and diſeaſed, and, that the quantity of wool was much leſs, than if ſmearing had taken place. Whether this is owing to the peculiar nature of the breed of ſheep in theſe hills, which are covered with fleeces, looſe, open, and ſhaking, and not thick, cloſe, and matted, or whether ſmearing is neceſſary with every ſort of hill ſheep, has not yet been fully aſcertained. The large Engliſh breed of ſheep have alſo been tried on theſe hills, but unſucceſsfully. It was found, that they grew lean, meagre, and pined away, and were neither calculated for the climate, nor the paſture.

Lower Part of the Pariſh.—The lower part of the pariſh is all arable, and excellently cultivated. The greater part of it is incloſed with hedge and ditch, and a few places with ſtone dykes.

dykes. From the foot of Lamer-moor hills, to the village of Whittingham, the ground gradually deſcends, but unequally, as it occaſionally riſes and falls. The ſoil on the ſouth ſide of the water of Whittingham, is much inferior to that on the ſouth. A great part of it is light and ſandy, with a gravelly bottom. Other parts of it conſiſt of a thin poor clay; but it ſhould be added, that there are ſeveral fields, in this part of the pariſh, of a rich fertile ſoil.——To the north, the ſoil is of a much ſuperior quality. Some of it is a rich deep loam; but the greateſt part conſiſts of deep, ſtrong, reddiſh clay, capable of producing finer crops, when the ſeaſon is favourable, than any land in the country. But it muſt be obſerved, that this kind of ſoil is extremely precarious, and very difficult to manage to the beſt advantage; as either too much rain, or too much drought, renders it unfit for cultivation.——The land on the eaſt of Whittingham, riſes in a ſlow and gentle manner, about 2½ Engliſh miles, to the top of Blaikieheugh; but the aſcent is eaſy and inſenſible.——It is remarkable, that the ſoil on this elevated ground, is of a rich, and even ſuperior quality to any in the parts adjoining.

Traprene-Law.—About 1½ mile northweſt from the village, ſtands Traprene-law; a little hill, or rock, of an oval form, riſing by itſelf, in an open country. On the ſouth ſide it is inacceſſible, and on the other ſides, round the extremity of the ſummit, there are the remains of an old dyke or wall, the materials of which are large rough ſtones, rudely piled up one above another.——It is probable, that it was conſtructed, by the inhabitants of the adjoining country, in the days of barbariſm, and was intended as a place of ſafety, when they were invaded by the Danes or the Engliſh. On ſuch occaſions they went thither for ſhelter, and carried their cattle and effects along with them.——This ſolitary rock was antiently called

Dumbender-law;

Dumpender-law; but after Mary Queen of Scotland, ſo famous in hiſtory, was carried off by the Earl of Bothwell, to Hails-caſtle, which ſtands to the north, on Tyne river, about an Engliſh mile below, it was called *Traprene-law*, from the two French words *trape* and *reine*. From the ſummit of this law, there is one of the fineſt proſpects in Scotland, taking in Eaſt and Mid Lothian, the county of Fife, the iſle of May, the Baſs, the firth of Forth, and the German ocean.——— Several years ago, a ſmall plantation, of different kinds of trees, was made on its ſummit, by way of experiment, and incloſed with a ſtone dyke, or wall, ſix feet high. The trees ſucceeded very well, while they were ſheltered by the wall; but, ſince that time, they have not made the ſmalleſt progreſs.

Seats.—There are only two gentlemen's ſeats in the pariſh, to wit, Whittingham-houſe and Ruſhlaw; both of them exhibiting evident marks of great antiquity. The former is moſt delightfully ſituated. It is built on elevated ground, ſurrounded by many natural beauties, improved by the embelliſhments of art. The adjacent banks, for the ſpace of an Engliſh mile, are covered, from top to bottom, with various ſorts of trees, in the moſt flouriſhing ſtate. Between the banks, there is a glen or valley, through which the Whittingham rolls along its gentle limpid ſtream, in a winding courſe, ſometimes approaching one ſide, and ſometimes the other. Through the adjacent grounds, ſeveral beautiful walks are interſperſed; and, what rarely happens, in other places, they have always a dry bottom, both ſummer and winter, and are ſo conducted, that on ſome one of them, it is generally pretty eaſy, at any ſeaſon, to find ſhelter from the wind and the ſtorm.

Village.—Whittingham is the only village in the pariſh, and is but thinly inhabited. Within theſe few years, ſeveral houſes

ſes have been pulled down; and, it is probable, that ſeveral others will ſoon ſhare the ſame fate.——There is a public houſe in this village, which is the only one in the whole pariſh. It has had no bad effect on the morals of the people. There are, indeed, very few, if any, addicted to the vice of drunkenneſs. The people are all virtuous, and diſtinguiſhed for an unremitting attention to their own buſineſs. This may be partly owing to their being ſo widely diſperſed, and being occupied principally with the wholeſome and innocent labours of the fields, and having ſeldom an opportunity of aſſociating in crouds, or corrupting one another. As their morals merit commendation, ſo the generality of them are not deficient in their zeal for religion. The great body of the people have a proper ſenſe of their obligations as Chriſtians, and regularly attend public worſhip. It may be ſubjoined, that there are few Seceders, or ſectaries in the pariſh.

Climate.—Both the higher and lower parts of the pariſh are remarkably healthful. Lamer-moor is reckoned one of the beſt and moſt ſalubrious climates in Scotland. This may be owing, partly, to the free and open circulation of the air, and partly, to the ſalutary exerciſe, which the inhabitants are conſtantly under the neceſſity of taking, in traverſing the hills with their flocks. Beſides, the wind, confined by the openings of the hills, ruſhes forward with increaſed velocity, and ſweeps before it every noxious and peſtilential vapour. ——The lower part of the pariſh is likewiſe deemed extremly healthful. It is a dry and open part of the country, infected with no damps or marſhy grounds: It ſtands on an elevation, of about 300 or 400 feet above the level of the ſea; and the extremity of it, on the eaſt, reaches within 4 or 6 miles of the German ocean. The vapours, which are exhaled from the ſea, and formed into clouds, generally paſs over the level country,

country, and are driven by the winds, till they are intercepted by the neighbouring hills; by which, they are broken and forced to deſcend in rain. This circumſtance renders the climate of Eaſt Lothian, one of the driеſt, moſt pleaſant, and delightful in Scotland —It is not remembered, that this pariſh has been ever viſited with any epidemical diſtemper; and inſtances might be given of great longevity.

Arable Land, and Crops.—There are 56 ploughgates in the pariſh; each ploughgate containing about 50 acres of arable land. The crops, commonly raiſed, are wheat, barley, oats, peaſe and beans, turnips, and ſown graſs; and the moſt intelligent farmers generally take white and green crops alternately. This method of cropping has a ſurpriſing effect, in cleaning, enriching, and meliorating the ſoil. Turnips and graſs crops, are certainly among the greateſt and moſt valuable improvements, which have been made in agriculture. As a proof of the ſlowneſs, with which uſeful diſcoveries are extended, it may be obſerved, that it is only of late that the utility of theſe crops was univerſally known, even in Eaſt Lothian. It is only about 20 years ago, that turnips were generally introduced through the country. A trifling quantity of clover and rye graſs ſeeds might be ſown, upwards of 50 years ago; but it will not exceed 37 years, ſince it became the univerſal practice among farmers to adopt this ſpecies of huſbandry

Markets and Roads.——The ſituation of the pariſh, for diſpoſing of its ſeveral productions, is extremely convenient. Wheat, barley, oats, peaſe, and beans, are carried, every Friday, to Hadington market, at the diſtance of from 3 to 6 miles.—The public roads, leading hither, are kept in excellent repair. L. 56 are annually laid out for that purpoſe,

within the pariſh, every ploughgate being aſſeſſed in 20s. ſterling. This is, no doubt, a heavy tax upon the farmers, but it is generally paid with the greateſt chearfulneſs, from a thorough conviction of the great conveniency and advantage of good roads. Before this improvement in the police of the country, the farmers were obliged to tranſport their corn, to Hadington, on horſeback; eſpecially during the winter ſeaſon. Now they generally ſend, on a double cart, 8 or 10 times the weight, that a ſingle horſe was in uſe to carry. The gentlemen of the pariſh are extremely attentive to this important branch of police; for which, they are juſtly entitled to the higheſt approbation.

Labourers.—The labourers, employed by the tenants, conſiſt of taſkers, hynds, and houſehold-ſervants; beſides which, they hire occaſionally women and the young of both ſexes, for hoeing, weeding, &c. The taſkers are thoſe, who are employed in threſhing out the corn; and they receive one boll of every 25, or the twenty-fifth part for their labour; and this has been their fixed and ſtated wages, as far back as can be remembered. Through the reſt of the year, when unemployed in the barn, they are generally engaged to ſerve their maſters as day-labourers, at a ſtipulated hire. A threſhing machine was lately invented, and is now uſed by ſome of the great farmers, in this neighbourhood.—The hynds are generally married, and lodge with their families, in their own houſes. They are eaſy and free from care, having nothing to attend to, but the buſineſs allotted to them by their maſters. The benefit they receive for their labour, is in kind; and it pretty remarkable, it has remained unalterably the ſame, as for theſe many years paſt. This is owing to its quality, which is of ſuch a nature, that it riſes in value with every other article. It conſiſts in graſs for a cow in ſummer, and

ſtraw in winter; 8 bolls of oats, 2 of barley, 2 of peaſe, and one boll of barley, for *cotter-bear*, as it is called. The houſehold men-ſervants, who eat in their maſters houſes, &c. receive wages.

The riſe, in the price of labour, throughout this county, during theſe 30 years paſt, will appear from the following ſtatement:

In 1760.					In 1790.			
A man ſervant's wages *per annum*,	From	L. 2	8	0	Fr.	L. 6	10	0
	To	3	0	0	To	7	0	0
A maid-ſervant's wages & perquiſites, valued at	-	1	0	0		3	0	0
	-	0	10	0				
A day-labourer's wages, *per diem*,	From	0	0	4	Fr.	0	0	10
	To	0	0	6	To	0	1	0
A woman's wages, for field work, 3d or		0	0	4		0	0	6
A maſon's *per diem*, 1 merk Scots, or		0	1	1⅓		0	1	8
A wright's wages, from 10d to		0	1	0		0	1	4

Tradeſmen.—No manufactures are carried on in this pariſh; and there are few tradeſmen, except ſuch as are neceſſary for the purpoſes of agriculture. There are 3 ſmiths, and each of them, without a ſervant, is able to manage his own work.—4 wrights; one of whom has an apprentice, and another two.—4 weavers; each of theſe work ſingle without an aſſiſtant.—2 ſhoe-makers; one of theſe has a young man; the other, beſides a journeyman, has three apprentices. It may be added, that there are 3 millers.

State of Grazing in the Pariſh.—As the grazing buſineſs is carried on, to a conſiderable extent, in the lower part of the pariſh,

pariſh, it will not be improper to ſtate, in a general manner, how it is now conducted. Several corn-farms are juſt now either laid, or laying down in graſs, for the purpoſe of feeding black cattle and ſheep. This circumſtance, indeed, is merely accidental; and, it is probable, that theſe farms, after lying a few years in graſs, will be again converted into tillage. But, at preſent, the grazing buſineſs is carried on with great ſpirit, and to a conſiderable extent.

The number of black cattle, fed on graſs, during the ſummer ſeaſon, is about 200, beſides from 40 to 50 fed on turnips in winter.—Of ewes, lambs, and wedders, fed on graſs in ſummer, there are from 80 to 100 ſcores. Two-thirds of theſe may be ſuppoſed to be ewes and lambs, and one-third wedders.

No ſheep, at preſent, are fed on turnips in winter.

Here it may be obſerved, that during theſe few years paſt, the grazing and feeding buſineſs, in this pariſh, has remarkably increaſed. It is computed, that, about 14 years ago, the number of black cattle, fed on graſs in a ſeaſon, did not exceed 60 or 70; and of ſheep, about 40 ſcores, and theſe were almoſt entirely ewes and lambs.

It is ſuppoſed, that the number of black cattle, bred at preſent in the pariſh, may be from 40 to 50.

The raiſing of turnips, between Whittingham water and the hills, is entirely in its infancy, and capable of very great improvement. It is expected, that, in a few years, much greater quantities will be raiſed; and, conſequently, there will be a proportionable increaſe, both in feeding and breeding *.

* It does not appear, that the quantity of grazing ground, in the county of Eaſt Lothian, is greater at preſent, that 14 or 20 years ago: yet the number of cattle, both fed and bred in it, partly

Heritors, Church, &c.—There are 9 heritors. Two of them, till lately, reſided in the pariſh, but have not for ſome time paſt.——The church is in excellent repair. The manſe and offices in the ſame ſtate. The glebe and garden are valuable.

School—The ſchool-houſe is large, containing a proper apartment for the ſcholars, beſides accommodation for the ſchool-maſter's family.——The ſchool-maſter's ſalary is 100 merks, which, with the other perquiſites, excluſive of his income from the ſchool, and a good garden, may be valued at L. 10 *per annum*. The average number of his ſcholars may be reckoned at, from 37 to 40. Should this be thought diſproportionate to the population of the pariſh, it may be remarked, that a great many of the young people are ſo ſituated, that it is much more convenient for them, to attend other parochial ſchools.

Poor.

partly owing to the graſs ground being better laid down, but principally, to the turnip huſbandry, has certainly very much increaſed. About 14 years ago, both black cattle and ſheep were, from 10 to 15 per cent. cheaper, than at preſent. But this is to be underſtood of lean cattle; for the fat then ſold generally dearer, eſpecially in the ſpring ſeaſon. This difference might be owing to the ſmall quantity of turnip then raiſed, and to the diſtillery's not being carried on to their preſent extent. But if the diſtilleries continue to flouriſh, and if ſuch quantities of turnips continue to be raiſed, there will always be a great demand for half fed cattle; ſo that butcher meat has now little chance of being much dearer in the ſpring, than at any other ſeaſon. Formerly there were a great many bad fed cattle killed at the end of autumn, which ſold very cheap, and prevented good and well-fed cattle from fetching their value. About 20 years ago, butcher-meat was generally from 50 to 70 per cent. dearer at Whitſunday than at Martinmas.

Poor.—No perſon, reſiding within the bounds of the pariſh is permitted to beg; and indeed, there are few individuals, or families, who ſtand much in need of public charity. This is ſo remarkably the caſe, that it may be affirmed, there is hardly any tract of country, in Scotland, ſo large, ſo populous, and well cultivated, where the number of the poor is ſo inconſiderable. This peculiarity is evidently owing to the ſmall number of cottagers. The great body of the lower people conſiſts of hynds and ſervants, who are connected with, and ſupported by the tenants,—The average number of poor on the roll, for the laſt 10 years, is only 5. They live in their own houſes, and the allowance granted them, conſiſts either in money or oat-meal. When in money, they generally receive 10s per quarter; but this allowance varies according to circumſtances. Beſides the penſioners on the roll, interim ſupplies are occaſionally given to other families, who, by ſickneſs, or misfortunes, are reduced to neceſſitous circumſtances. The average of the money, annually expended on the poor, for the laſt 10 years, may be eſtimated at about L. 19. This ſum is raiſed by weekly collections at the church-doors, ſeat-rents, mort-cloths, marriages, gratuities, &c. When theſe funds are deficient, an aſſeſſment takes place. In 1782, when the prices of all kinds of proviſions were ſo exorbitantly high, that many of the induſtrious poor were reduced to great ſtraits, the heritors agreed to ſupply this uſeful ſet of men with oat-meal, till the middle or end of harveſt, (when it was ſuppoſed the prices would fall), at the rate of 1s per peck. In order to aſcertain the ſum neceſſary for this purpoſe, a liſt was made up, of ſuch induſtrious poor, as were thought proper objects of charity, and the quantity of meal was calculated, that would be conſumed by every family per week, and conſequently, that would be required by the whole, during the time, that this aid was to be continued. The ſum requiſite

ſite was advanced by the heritors, and entruſted to the management of the kirk-ſeſſion, who met once a month, and gave each family, according to the quantity of meal they wanted, the ſurplus of the market riſe, above 1s per peck.

Population.——The following is an accurate ſtate of the population of the pariſh:

Males - -	296
Females - - -	359
Number of ſouls -	655

The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, being 714 ſouls, it is evident, that there has been a decreaſe, within theſe 40 years, of 59 ſouls. This alteration has been produced by various cauſes; ſuch as, the conjunction of farms, ſome farms being laid in graſs, others being occcupied by tenants, who reſide in other pariſhes; two horſe-ploughs being uſed inſtead of four; moſt of the land being incloſed; many cot-houſes being pulled down, and others empty; one corn-farm being entirely depopulated, and laid under graſs, and the incloſures belonging to it annually let by public auction, to the higheſt bidder.

Moſt of the cot-houſes in the pariſh are now pulled down; the farmers being of opinion, that the advantage ariſing from them, was greatly overbalanced by the expence of keeping them up. There is one farmer, indeed, who judged differently from his brethren on this ſubject, and has kept up all his cot-houſes. He thought, and with good reaſon, that it would contribute much to the advantage and conveniency of the tenant, to have always plenty of people on the ſpot, ready to aſſiſt him on any emergency.——It has been aſſerted, that many of the lower people, through different parts of the country, diſcover a predilection for the town; but it may be affirmed,

as

as a fact, that no ſuch ſpirit has been diſcovered here; at leaſt, among any of the inhabitants, who have reſided ſome years in the pariſh.

	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths
Average for ten years	19	5	8

The liſt of births and marriages are extracted from the pariſh regiſter, which is accurately kept. The liſt of deaths includes only ſuch as are buried in the church-yard of Whittingham *.

* *Abſtract of the Births, Marriages, and Deaths, in the Pariſh of Whittingham, for* 10 *years, preceding January,* 1790.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
1781	29	8	8
1782	25	1	14
1783	13	4	10
1784	22	11	7
1785	23	5	8
1786	19	4	8
1787	16	7	4
1788	20	3	8
1789	15	8	10
1790	7	3	4
	189	54	81
Yearly aver. nearly	19	5	8

NUMBER

NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF LARGS.

(COUNTY OF AYR.)

By the Rev. MR. GILBERT LANG.

Situation, Air, &c.

THE pariſh of Largs lies in that diviſion of the ſhire of Ayr, called Cunningham. It is the moſt northerly pariſh in it; bordering on the ſhire of Renfrew, at a place, called Kellybridge. It is pleaſantly ſituated along the firth of Clyde, from north to ſouth; having the iſlands of Bute and Cumbraes oppoſite to its ſhore: beyond which, are ſeen the lofty mountains of Arran, with their heads often above the clouds. It is a magnificent proſpect; the eye paſſing over the ſea, from iſland to iſland, till at laſt the view is thus nobly terminated. To the eaſt of the Largs, the land riſes into a long range of mountains, which ſeparates it from the pariſhes of Innerkip, Greenock, Kilmalcolm, Lochwhinnoch, Kilbirny, and Dalry; ſo that it is a very ſequeſtered ſpot; and hence, perhaps, the common proverbial ſaying, "Out of Scotland in-" to Largs." The air is pure; the water clear and bright; ſnows generally melt as they fall, ſeldom lying near the ſhore. There are here ſcarce any fogs, while the reſt of the country, forty miles round, is often buried in them: So that this pariſh

has been, by ſome, called the Montpelier of Scotland. It has been frequented a good deal of late, in the ſummer months, by many perſons and families, for the ſake of health or amuſement; and it would be ſtill more, if there were better accommodation.——From Kelly bridge, the pariſh runs nine miles ſouth, along the ſhore, to Fairly, where it borders with the pariſh of Kilbryde. It may be very properly called, in general, a ſtripe of land, between the mountains and the ſea; and in antient times, it is probable, that the ſea covered the lower parts.

Soil, Produce, &c—The ſoil, upon the whole, is rather light, ſhallow, and gravelliſh. The land does not produce as much corn, as is neceſſary for the ſupport of the people.—— Perhaps it would be better, if there were ſtill leſs corn, and if graſs were more attended to; for the ſoil, of itſelf, runs naturally into white clover and daiſy: and even the mountains, which are all green, afford excellent paſture for cattle.——— There is a practice alſo, which renders it impoſſible to have great or rich farms, or good cultivation, in this pariſh; it being uſual to hire almoſt all the farm horſes in it, during winter and ſpring, among the neighbouring diſtricts; and after the labour among them is over, they are returned home, often in a poor ſtate, to go through the work of their own ill-judging maſters. The ſaving of fodder, and the making of a little money, is the excuſe made for this ſtrange practice.——The ſoil is light, the harveſts are as early, and even earlier than any in the neighbourhood. The plough is certainly rather neglected; but there is plenty of butter made, and many black cattle and ſheep fattened.

Population.—In 1755, there was none who could properly make a return of the ſtate of the population. In 1756, the

preſent incumbent took a liſt of examinable perſons, or of thoſe above 8 years of age, and found that they amounted to 830. The number, an. 1790, was 805, of whom 389 were males, and 416 females; ſo that the population has not much varied. In Dr Webſter's report, the number of ſouls is 1164. Probably, when the return conſiſted only of examinable perſons, he had certain data upon which he calculated the number of ſouls. The population of the country part of the pariſh has certainly decreaſed; but the town of Largs, which contains about the half of the pariſh, has proportionally increaſed. The number of deaths varies conſiderably in different years; according as the ſmall-pox, or any ſpecies of dangerous fever, prevails or not. In ſuch caſes, the number of deaths is above 40; but in ordinary years, between 20 and 30. Inoculation has been introduced ſeveral times; but, notwithſtanding its ſelf-evident utility, the leaſt accident tends to diſcredit it. The number of births, one year with another, is about 30.

Though the Largs lies conveniently enough for ſome ſpecies of trade and manufactures, yet the want of coal, and more eſpecially, the tax upon that neceſſary article, will for ever prevent the very exiſtence of them. Perhaps Turkey itſelf cannot afford an inſtance of a tax more oppreſſive and more abſurd. Among the trades people, who live in Largs, the weavers are the moſt numerous, particularly the ſilk-weavers; being employed by the manufacturers of Paiſley, who have been of great benefit to the place*. Fiſhing has been much leſs attended to, than it ought to be. There are ſeveral corn-merchants, who buy grain in Bute and Cumbraes; and alſo import it from the ſouth of Scotland, and from Ireland.——

There

* The trades-people are nearly as follows: 66 weavers, 29 carpenters, 10 ſhoemakers, 7 taylors, 5 ſmiths, 5 coopers, 4 maſons.

There is no ſmuggling worth the mentioning, unleſs the pitiful and occaſional help given to the poor ſeamen, in their little adventures, can be called ſuch. The inhabitants, in general, are a quiet, ſober, decent, people. Living chiefly among themſelves, they are ſtrangers, and ſo far, perhaps, happy ſtrangers, to the more free and licentious manners of the world around them.

Curioſities, Ruins, &c.—Entering the pariſh and the ſhire at Kelly bridge, upon the ſhore, along which the road pleaſantly lies, the land, to the eaſt of it, which is high, ends abruptly in, what may be called, a perpendicular wall of ſtone, extending a full mile, at the foot of which is the road, and riſing above it in ſome places, to the height of 50 and 60 feet, ſeeming to hang over it, and preſenting to travellers, the likeneſs of an impregnable bulwark. It is a ſtriking object, eſpecially in froſty weather, if the ſun happens to ſhine on it when it is all covered over with icicles. This mound of rock ends near the houſe of Kilmorly, which is an old caſtle, ſtanding on a height, and commanding a noble proſpect of the Clyde. Farther on, are the ruins of another caſtle, above the road, and ſeen from it; and higher up, is a mountain riſing to a conſirable height, in the ſhape of a cone, and green to the top; on which there is ſtill the veſtige of ſome work of antient times. Perhaps it might have ſerved for a watch-tower; for it is too narrow for any thing elſe.——Coming farther ſouth, the high grounds fall off gradually, ſloping down to a water at the bottom. That ground is ſtill called Forgie-brae, originally, Fergus-brae. Perhaps it got that name from Fergus, King of the Scots, marching up that hill, when he landed from Ireland.—The country now opens into a beautiful plain, extending near a mile from the ſhore, to the foot of the mountains; where the village of Largs is ſituated, near the ſhore, and ſurround-

ed

ed with trees.——In the church is an aiſle, belonging to the family of Shelmorly, built by Sir Robert Montgomery, more than 160 years ago; which, both for ſculpture and painting, does no diſcredit to thoſe times. Under ground is a vault; where, among others, the body of Sir Robert lies, in a leaden coffin; on which is the following Latin inſcription:

Ipſe mihi præmortuus fui, fato funera præripui, unicum idque Cæſareum exemplar, inter tot mortales, ſecutus.

Sir Robert uſed to deſcend into the vault at nights, for his devotions; thus burying himſelf, as it were, alive. The *Cæſareum exemplar*, is the example of the Emperor, Charles the V. who had his obſequies ſolemnly performed before he died.

Antiquities.——The plain above mentioned extends to the ſouth of the Largs; on which was fought in 1263, in the reign of Alexander the III. the famous battle of Largs, between the Scots and the Danes or Norwegians *. The hiſtorians on both ſides differ much in their accounts of it. Without entering into a fruitleſs controverſy on ſo remote an event, it may be obſerved, that there has been, from generation to generation, an uninterrupted tradition of a battle fought in that place, between theſe nations. The field is ſtill pointed out; cairns of ſtones were on it, formed, as was ſaid, over pits, into which the bodies of the ſlain were thrown. An unhewn ſtone of granite, ten feet long, once ſtood on end in that field, erected over the body of a cheftain. It is now fallen down. A Daniſh ax was found not far from it, and ſent by Mr Briſbane of Briſbane to the Antiquarian Society at Edinburgh. The Earl of Glaſgow had another. If any faith could be given to modern names

* The famous poem of Hardiknute alludes to this battle.

names of places, they would be a proof, at this day, of that battle. One is called the Killing-craig, another the Burly gate. To all which it may be added, that a few years ago, ſome workmen were employed to carry off ſtones, larger and better ſhaped than field ſtones, from a riſing ground, where they were lying in a great heap, and where, it is ſaid, a chapel once ſtood, in a corner, near the place where the battle was fought. After taking away a great number, they came at length to three long, broad, flat, unhewn ſtones, which were the covers of three deep ſtone coffins. Nothing, however, was found in them, except a broken, brown, earthen urn, and a mouldering piece of bone. The earth and ſmall ſtones, at the bottom, on the ground, were calcined.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Fairly road or rade, may be properly mentioned in this account. It is a bay that would contain any number of ſhips, ſheltered from every ſtorm, and having firm anchoring ground.

There is a fair, annually held at Largs, every Midſummer. It is called St Coſme or Come's day. In former times there was little communication between the Highlands and Lowlands; at the ſame time, they required articles, with which they could mutually ſupply each other. Hence, probably, they agreed to meet one another, in a common place, for the general benefit; and this place was the Largs. There they made exchanges, and purchaſed goods, that ſerved them through the whole year. It might be called, a congreſs between the Highlands and Lowlands; and occaſioned a vaſt concourſe of people, for ſome days. The ſpectacle of boats from all quarters, the crowds of people, the ſound of muſic; aſhore, dancing and hilarity, day and night on the green; and farther up, a new ſtreet, or town, formed of the ſtands of merchants, and filled with a preſs of people, formed altogether an amuſing ſpecta-

cle. Of late, this congreſs has decreaſed much; becauſe there are many ſhops now through the Highlands; and travelling chapmen frequent almoſt every part of that country. However, there is ſtill a reſpectable concourſe of ruſtic beaux and belles, from eaſt and weſt, by land and ſea.

Kelburn Houſe.——Kelburn, a ſeat belonging to the Earl of Glaſgow, remarkable for the romantic ſcenery of the glen behind it, is ſituated in this pariſh. The glen begins near the houſe, and about a quarter of a mile behind it, ends in an abrupt, rough, ſteep precipice, over which a water pours down, which then runs through a bottom below, no broader than the water itſelf. The ground immediately riſes on each ſide, and aſcends mountain-high; at the ſame time theſe two heights are very near each other. The chaſm, were it naked, would be tremenduous; but art has converted it into a ſurpriſing beauty. Both ſides of it are planted, and covered thick with trees; which have flouriſhed ſo well, that in ſome parts, a ſhade is formed, impervious to the rays of the ſun. The water, in its courſe, falls, near the houſe, over another precipice, 50 feet down, into a vaſt baſon, that ſeems ſcooped out of both ſides of the glen. A walk goes through the whole, which is properly conducted to humour the ground. The deepneſs of the ſhade, the murmuring of the ſtream below, the height of the ground on each ſide, the depth of the precipices, the ſolemn darkneſs, ſo favourable to ſerioufneſs and meditation; all together form a ſcene peculiarly awful. All which is ſtill heightened, by the appearance of a monument of white marble, erected by the late Counteſs Dowager of Glaſgow, to the memory of her huſband: Virtue, holding a lock of her hair in one hand; and, in the other, an urn; over which ſhe penſively, and mournfully inclines, lamenting the loſs of one of her favourite ſons.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXX.

PARISH OF ECCLESMACHAN.

(COUNTY OF LINLITHGOW.)

By the Rev. MR. WILLIAM PETERKIN.

Name, Situation, &c.

THE antient and modern name of this pariſh, in as far as it can be traced, is Eccleſmachan. A learned and reſpectable antiquary, (the Earl of Buchan,) thinks it means *Eccleſia Machani.* Whether the church was dedicated to a ſaint of that name, is not certain, but the conjecture is highly probable.——It is ſituated in the county of Linlithgow, and ſynod of Lothian and Tweeddale; 12 meaſured miles weſt from Edinburgh. In length, it is about 4 miles, including ſome parts of Linlithgow, and Uphall pariſhes, by which it is interſected. Its breadth is not above a mile.

Soil, Climate, and Minerals.——The whole pariſh is a flat corn country, producing all the ſorts of grain raiſed in Weſt Lothian. The air is mild, and the country healthy; not ſubject to any epidemical diſtemper.

There is a mineral ſpring at no great diſtance from the manſe, called the Bullion-well, of the ſame nature with Moffat water; to which, people labouring under ſcrophulous complaints

complaints uſed to repair: but it has not been much frequented for ſome years paſt.

There are few or no farms in this pariſh, in which coals are not to be found; but no coal-work is carried on in the pariſh. The Earl of Hopetoun has lately opened a coal pit, about a mile and a half north from Eccleſmachan, in the pariſh of Dalmenie, which, it is hoped, will be of great uſe to the country-ſide. There is a good free-ſtone quarry at Waterſtown, within a quarter of a mile of the church, which the farmers uſe in building their houſes. Plenty of free-ſtone is found in many other parts. On the confines of the north weſt extremity of the pariſh, in the hills of Bathgate, lie ſilver mines; ſo called, becauſe the lead found there, was very productive of that valuable article, a tun of lead producing 17 ounces of ſilver. That ſpot was formerly the property of the Earl of Hadington's anceſtors, whoſe eſtate was ſaid to have been much increaſed by the profit of theſe mines. They are now the property of the family of Hopetoun; who have frequently made ſeveral trials for lead in the vicinity of, and among the old workings, but without effect.

Population.——The population of this pariſh, as reported to Dr Webſter, for the year 1755, was 330 ſouls. It now contains only 215. Of theſe, 48 are under 7 years of age; and 63 are diſſenters of one denomination or another; ſo that there are 104 examinable perſons, profeſſing the communion of the Eſtabliſhed Church. The Seceſſion, at its commencement, flew like an *ignis fatuus*, through this part of the country. Within the bounds of this preſbytery, containing 19 pariſhes, there are 13 meeting houſes belonging to the Seceders. But of late, they ſeem to have loſt much of that zeal, by which they were diſtinguiſhed.———The principal cauſe of the depopulation in this, and in the neighbouring pariſhes, is the

practice has become ſo prevalent of pulling down cottages, and throwing ſeveral farms into one.—The annual average of births may be from 6 to 7; of marriages, rather under 2, and of deaths, about 3. There are 11 farmers in the pariſh, an 30 cotters. Theſe laſt have only a houſe and ſmall yard, but no land; and are employed as ſervants to the farmers, or carriers of butter and buttermilk to Edinburgh. The average of each farmer's family, is 9, including children and ſervants: of each cotter's, 5. There is no manufactory of any kind carried on in the pariſh; nor are there any mechanics, except 1 houſe-carpenter, 2 blackſmiths, 1 taylor, and 1 maſon.——None of the heritors reſide.

Patron, Stipend, &c.——The Earl of Hopetoun is patron, and proprietor of nearly one half of the pariſh. The ſtipend conſiſts of one chalder of bear, two of meal, and L. 75 in money, including L. 3 : 8 : 6, for communion elements.

Poor.——The oldeſt pariſh regiſter extant, commences in December 1662. It is fairly wrote in an antiquated hand; and the buſineſs of the ſeſſion, and the application of the poors money, (which then amounted to about 6d. ſterling weekly,) are accurately recorded. The average weekly collection now amounts to 1s. and 20s. are generally collected at the diſpenſation of the Lord's Supper. There is a fund alſo, of L. 60 ſterling, from former ſavings. There are only two old women on the poors-roll, who get 5s. a month.

Lord Hopetuon, to encourage induſtry in this part of the pariſh, gives L. 5 a year to five women, to purchaſe materials for ſpinning. The ſeſſion lays out the money in fl. x, which, when ſpun, is ſhewn to the miniſter. The women ſell the yarn to a manufacturer, whoſe certificate, ſpecifying the quantity

and price, muſt be produced to the ſeſſion, before more money is advanced.

School, &c.—The ſchool-maſter's ſalary is 100 merks Scots, (L. 8:6:8 ſterling,) paid partly by the heritors, and partly by the tenants. He has alſo 20s. as precentor and ſeſſion-clerk. His perquiſites and ſchool fees through the year, will not exceed 20s. more. No perſon qualified for the inſtruction of youth, can be ſuppoſed to ſubſiſt on ſuch a pittance, while an ordinary plowman, or barnman, can make at the rate of L. 14 or L. 15 a year.——The want of proper ſchool-maſters is the principal cauſe of the ignorance, bigotry, and ſectariſm, which now prevail in many parts of this country. In former times, the commons of Scotland were juſtly accounted the moſt enlightened people of their ſtation in Europe; but they will probably ſoon ceaſe to deſerve that honourable diſtinction, if the plans, which are now in agitation, for additional encouragement to ſchool maſters, are treated with neglect. It is only from the well informed, and well educated part of the community, that candour, moderation, rational piety, and decency of manners can be expected.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—No new houſe or cottage has been built in the pariſh for theſe ten years paſt. About 6 have fallen down, the inhabitants having emigrated to Edinburgh or elſewhere.——The wages of a male ſervant is about L. 15, if he lives in his own houſe, or L. 8, and his maintainance, if he reſides with his maſter. Maid-ſervants wages are about L. 3, and their maintainance. The circumſtances of the lower orders of the community, in this neighbourhood, if they are induſtrious, are, on the whole, eaſy. But indolence or vice, clothes a man with rags, in this as well as in other countries.

NUMBER XXXI.

PARISH OF DALSERF.

(COUNTY OF LANARK.)

By the Rev. MR. JOHN RISK.

Etymology, Situation, and Extent.

THE name of this pariſh is ſaid to be derived from *Dal*, which, in the Celtic, ſignifies a plain or valley, and the Latin word, *cervus*, a deer. This etymology is not unlikely, as in antient times, it was very probably a place diſtinguiſhed for the number of deer, who reſorted to it for ſhelter. ——It is ſituated in the middle ward of the county of Lanark, in the preſbytery of Hamilton, and ſynod of Glaſgow and Ayr. The weſtern part of it is about 14 miles from the city of Glaſgow, and 3 from the town of Hamilton: It is about 5 miles long, and 3 broad, at an average.

Surface and Soil. —— Between the edge of the river Clyde, and the riſing ground, or banks on each ſide of that river, there are generally valleys, or holms, (as they are here called,) of different breadths. The ſoil of theſe, for a great depth, appears to be formed of the mud and ſand, depoſited, in the courſe of ages, by the overflowings of the river, and is moſtly of a very fertile quality. From theſe narrow plains,

the banks riſe, with a very bold and quick aſcent, to a conſiderable height, and are in many places ſteep and full of precipices. From their ſummits, the land riſes very moderately, and again falls a little, upon the weſt of the pariſh. The higheſt part of the land is computed to be about 400 feet above the level of the ſea. The ſoil of the upper grounds, in general, is a very ſtrong heavy clay, lying upon a ſtratum of a denſe argillaceous ſubſtance, generally of a great depth; which, under all its different appearances, is called *till* in this country, there being only a few exceptions, of ſmall ſpots of a more light and open quality. The clay ſoil, in its natural ſtate, appears very ſterile, bearing only ſtraggling buſhes of furze, with ſometimes broom, and a ſmall quantity of coarſe herbage: But, by a courſe of cultivation, and repeated manuring with lime and dung, it is brought to yield good crops of corn and graſs. Some of the ſteep banks, already mentioned, along the ſide of the Clyde, are uncovered, and but ſlightly cultivated; ſome of them are clothed with beautiful coppice woods; as are alſo many of the other ſteep declivities, upon the ſides of the other rivers, brooks, and torrents. On the upper parts of the pariſh, are large artificial plantations and ſtripes of trees; on the lower, conſiderable orchards are planted: The reſt of the pariſh is all arable, except a ſmall extent of moſs.

Rivers.——The Clyde, which forms the boundary of the pariſh, on one ſide; the Avon, which runs along the weſt ſide of it for two miles, and the ſmall river, Calner, are the principal ſtreams. The bold rocky banks of the Avon, covered with wood, are beautifully romantic. In the Clyde and Avon, ſalmon, trout, pike, eels, &c. are found, and in the Calner, ſome trout. The rains ſometimes occaſion great floods in the rivers. The Clyde, at particular times, riſes ſo high as to overflow, and do great injury to the lands in the adjacent

adjacent valleys. The moſt remarkable inſtance of this kind, was on the 12th of March, 1782, when the water roſe here 3 feet higher than was ever remembered, (being 17 feet perpendicular, above the ordinary ſurface of low water,) and ſwept away ſeveral mills and mill-dams, leaving ſcarcely a veſtige behind.—There is a ferry-boat upon the Clyde, near the pariſh church, and one upon the Avon, at a place called Milheugh, but there are no bridges over any of the rivers in this pariſh.

Buildings.—Dalſerf houſe, the reſidence of Captain James Hamilton of Broomhill, is a neat modern building, ſtanding upon an eminence, near the village of Dalſerf, and commands a charming proſpect, both up and down the Clyde. Broomhill houſe, which alſo belongs to the ſame gentleman, and which was the ſeat of the antient family of the Hamiltons of Broomhill, (the elder branch of which were created Lords Belhaven), ſtands upon the top of the banks of the river Avon, in a fine airy ſituation, having a moſt agreeable view of the country around, and of the river Avon, with its pleaſant banks. Mr Hamilton, induced by the remarkable beauty of the ſituation, is now building another houſe, upon an eminence above the village of Dalſerf; which commands one of the moſt extenſive and delightful proſpects, that can well be imagined.

Villages.—The village of Dalſerf ſtands in a low ſnug ſituation, under the banks of the Clyde, having a large fertile valley, called Dalſerf Holm, to the eaſtward; round which, the river makes a circular ſweep. In the village ſtands a handſome pariſh church, with a clock and ſpire; and, at ſome diſtance, upon the riſing ground, is the parſonage houſe, or miniſter's manſe, which commands a delightful proſpect.—This place is famed for the abundance of excellent fruit, particularly

ticularly plumbs, produced in the gardens and orchards around it. It was formerly the principal village in the pariſh, but is now fallen much into decay; becauſe the preſent proprietor does not conſider it an advantage, to have a village near the ſeat of the family; and therefore does not encourage the increaſe of it, by granting either leaſes or feus, the houſes being only let from year to year, that a troubleſome neighbour may eaſily be removed.

There are other two villages, viz. Millheugh and Larkhall, both at the weſtern extremity of the pariſh, and not far diſtant from each other; Millheugh being ſituated in a narrow valley by the ſide of the river Avon, and Larkhall, upon the great road leading from Glaſgow to Carliſle. The laſt is now become the largeſt village in the diſtrict, though formerly the moſt inconſiderable. The greateſt part of it has been built within theſe 15 years, upon leaſes of 99 years, and laid out upon a regular plan. It conſiſts of about 100 houſes, inhabited principally by weavers. There are about 6 alehouſes in it, (a circumſtance not very favourable to the morals, or the induſtry of the inhabitants), where ſquabbles, riots, and acts of incontinence, are frequently reported to occur. The principal cauſes, which have promoted the increaſe of this village, are, 1ſt, Its nearneſs to coal; 2dly, Its being ſituated on a public road; and 3dly, The encouragement given to perſons to ſettle in it, from the long leaſes already mentioned, by which they obtain a permanent reſidence.

Climate, &c.—The air here is eſteemed tolerably dry and ſalubrious. The inhabitants are not remarkably ſubject to any diſeaſe, but are in general very healthy, eſpecially thoſe who live temperately, and are employed in the open air. Many of them have arrived at a conſiderable age, and there are ſome above 80 now living.——The moſt general courſe of the wind,

wind, is from the ſouth-weſt and weſt: When it blows from the ſouth, it is often accompanied with heavy ſhowers. In the ſpring, cold ſharp winds frequently blow from the eaſt and north; and then there is generally a ſtrong drought; but when rain ſets in with an eaſt wind, it is heavy, and of long continuance. The drieſt weather is moſtly in the months of May and June, which is very injurious to the crops on the rigid clay, after it has been ſoaked and battered by the winter's rains. When the ſummer's rains are late in falling, which frequently happens, the clay grounds, prepared by the ſun and drought to receive them, then puſhes up the languiſhing crops with great luxuriance, and this occaſions a late harveſt.—— When the ſpring is dry and favourable, oats, peaſe, and beans, are ſown in March; but the clay ſoil and cloſe bottom being very retentive of moiſture, and the ſprings often ſhowery. April is ſometimes far advanced, before the land is fit for the reception of theſe ſeeds. Barley is generally ſown about the middle of May.

Cattle.—The horſes, kept for cultivating the land, are upwards of 130 in number; beſides young ones annually reared, which may be about 25. There are alſo 10 horſes kept by carters, who are employed in carrying coals, and other commodities, to and from different places. The number of milch cows kept, is about 300, and the young ones annually reared, probably above 60 at an average. Some black cattle are always fed for ſlaughter on the beſt incloſed paſtures; but the average number cannot be well aſcertained.——There are now but few ſheep kept in the pariſh, owing to the introduction of incloſing with hedge and ditch, which obliged the farmers to diſmiſs the little flocks, of which every one was formerly poſſeſſed.

Cultivation and Produce.——The modes of cultivation and rotation of crops practiſed in this pariſh are various. The chief of them are the following: The land is fallowed in ſummer, with repeated turnings; it is then manured with lime and dung, or a compoſt made up of theſe ingredients and a quantity of earth; and ſown with wheat in the end of Auguſt, or as early as poſſible in the following month. The wheat crop is followed by peaſe, or a mixture of peaſe and beans: theſe again by oats, and again oats, or perhaps barley and graſs ſeed, with two or three plowings, follow the oats, and after that a crop or two of hay, and then paſture. Or, the manure is laid upon the paſture in Autumn, and the land plowed, and ſown with peaſe and beans in the ſpring; after which two crops of oats, followed by graſs, ſown with the laſt. Thoſe, who adhere moſt to the culture of barley, ſow it after a crop of peaſe and beans, with ſpring-fallowing and dung, upon the croft-land, that is, the land lying neareſt the farm houſe, which has been enriched by all the manure, made there, being continually laid upon it: But the old diſtinction between croft and outfield is faſt wearing out, and all the parts of the farm are now moſtly treated in the ſame manner; ſo that there is now leſs barley ſown than formerly. Beſides, in this pariſh, which was once famous for producing excellent barley, the culture of this grain has, of late years, been much leſs ſucceſsful; the returns neither being ſo abundant, nor the quality ſo good, which has tended greatly to diſcourage it.—This has been, by ſome, attributed to the wet, backward ſprings, prevalent for a good many years paſt, which have prevented the proper preparation of the ſtubborn clay ſoil, for the reception of the ſeed; and the cold ſummers, which have injured the growth of this tender plant. Others aſcribe it to the culture of wheat becoming more prevalent, which takes away a great part of the manure, formerly beſtowed on the barley;

and others again, to the practice of hay crops of artificial graſſes, which, they aſſert, unfits the land for producing grain crops, till it has been recovered by long reſt and paſturing. But, whatever is the cauſe, the culture of barley, on account of its bad ſucceſs, is in a great meaſure abandoned.

Beans and peaſe have been found to thrive well, in this pariſh, upon land in good order; but of late, they have not been much more ſucceſsful than barley. Diſcouraged by bad ſprings, or violent droughts in the beginning of ſummer, they grow too vigorouſly, when the latter rains come on, and run more to ſtraw than to ſeed. The preſent crop, (1791,) appears to be better than any for theſe ſeveral years paſt. In favourable ſeaſons, peaſe, which are ſown alone on the poorer ground, yield from 3 to 6 bolls per acre; and, beans, or beans with a mixture of peaſe, ſown on better land, from 5 to 10 bolls, each boll containing ſomewhat more than 4 Wincheſter buſhels.

Wheat and oats are the chief crops. Wheat ſucceeds well in the ſtrong ſoil, and yields grain of a good quality. The produce of an acre is commonly from 25 to 50 Wincheſter buſhels. The greateſt danger, to which it is ſubjected, is from ſevere froſts in the beginning of the ſpring, while the clay is ſoft, and drenched with rain-water, which ſwells the ground, and throws out the roots of the wheat. This was lately the caſe for three years ſucceſſively, to wit, 1783; 1784, and 1785, when the wheat crops were much injured, and produced very poor returns. Oats are hardy, and ſucceed with leſs manure and culture. The moſt favourable circumſtance, for this crop, is, when the particles of clay have been well ſeparated, by the winter's froſt, and the ſeedtime dry. This enables the ſoil to reſiſt the ſummer's drought. The produce of an acre of oats, is from 25 to 60 buſhels; of an acre of hay, from 1 to 2 tons.

The clay ſoil is not very favourable for the culture of pota-

toes; but in the vallies, where this root succeeds exceeding well, and is of an excellent quality, it has been carried to considerable extent, and with great success. The produce of an acre has been found to weigh, from 12 to 13 tons, and generally sells, upon the ground, at from L. 10 to L. 14 sterling. Indeed every where the husbandmen cultivate them less or more; and where circumstances admit, raise them, not only for the use of their families, but for feeding cattle, particularly milch-cows: The inhabitants of the villages also, rent spots of land in their neighbourhood, by the year, for raising this root.

The management of the dairy, in making butter and cheese, and fattening calves, has been diligently studied, and much improved, in this parish, particularly of late years. The annual profits, on a milch-cow, are from L. 3 to L. 4.

Having no map, or general measurement of the parish, it is impossible to give an accurate account of the quantity of land, annually applied to any particular purpose, or of the average quantity of every particular article of produce; but it is certain, that the quantity of provisions raised, is considerably more, than what is necessary to maintain the inhabitants.

There is a little flax raised for domestic use; but the farmers think it not a sure crop on stiff clay.

The cultivation of apples, pears, plumbs, &c. has, perhaps, been carried to no as great extent, and with as much success here, as in any part in Scotland. All around the village of Dalserf, extensive orchards are planted, and every hedge and fence is filled with plumb trees; even the tenants along the sides of the Clyde, have all large orchards near their houses. The fruit generally come to great perfection, and are exceedingly well flavoured. The whole are, some years, worth about L 400 sterling, and are mostly sold at Glasgow and Paisley; to

to which markets a great deal of ſmaller fruit, ſuch as gooſeberries and currants are alſo ſent.

The natural coppice woods conſiſt chiefly of oaks, aſh, elm, birch and elder, and are cut down once in 30 years. The trees that are ſuffered to ſtand, near the river Clyde, particularly planes, oak, and aſh, grow to a great ſize. On the upper parts of the pariſh, are large plantations of Scots fir, which thrive very well; but the larix ſucceeds ſtill better.

Within theſe 30 years, the land has all been incloſed with hedge and ditch; but few of the fences can be ſaid to be ſufficient, and many of them never will. The face of the pariſh, however, is greatly changed to the better. Fields, which were covered with furze, broom, &c. are now cleared of theſe incumbrances, and rendered fit, either for tillage or paſture. The large belts, and clumps of planting, have added, not only to the beauty, but alſo to the fertility of the country. The farm houſes, formerly mean, are now built in a neat and commodious manner, and make a decent appearance. From the improvement made upon the land, by the induſtry of the tenants, as well as from the increaſed price of the produce, the value of ground is ſo much augmented, that ſome farms, which, about 30 years ago, rented at L. 12 or L. 15. a year, are now let at L. 70 or L. 80, and the tenants are now in a better condition than before.

Rent.—The valued rent of the pariſh is L. 3320 Scots.—Farms are rented, for the courſe of a 19 years leaſe, at from 5s. to 30s. ſterling, per acre. But ſmall parcels of rich, or highly improved land, ſometimes let for a few years, at L. 3 or L. 4 per acre.

Population.—The number of inhabitants in this pariſh has of late years, been conſiderably increaſed, owing chiefly to the

increase of the village of Larkhall. In 1755, they amounted to 765 souls, and now to about 1100. Of these there are 100 weavers, 16 masons, 16 joiners and carpenters, 8 shoemakers, 9 taylors, 4 blacksmiths, 4 shopkeepers, 4 millers, 1 surgeon, 1 dyer, 1 spinner on a cotton jeany, 9 inn keepers, and 35 coalminers.——From the register of births and mort-cloths, which, for many reasons, must be inaccurate and incomplete, it appears, that the births, at an average, are about 30 and the burials 20, every year.

Ecclesiastical State——The Duke of Hamilton is patron. The stipend is from L. 80 to L. 90 sterling yearly, besides the manse and glebe. No augmentation has been obtained, since the commencement of the present century, except a small addition to the glebe.——The generality of the inhabitants are of the established church, and there is no other place of worship in the parish. There are, however, a few sectaries of different denominations.

Poor.—As vagrant begging has been always regarded as very pernicious to society, it has been the wish of this parish to discourage it as much as possible, and hence it has been led to maintain its poor, by an assessment or stent laid upon the inhabitants, according to their ability. This assessment, for several years past, has amounted to L. 44 : 4. yearly. There are at present 12 people, who receive regular monthly supplies, besides some others, who receive occasional assistance, according to incidental necessity, and others again who get their house-rents paid.

It were rather to be wished, that the poor could be maintained by voluntary contributions, than by assessment. The latter method has a tendency to increase their number and to encourage dissipation and idleness. It extin-

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guiſhes charity in thoſe who give, as they give from compulſion, and prevents gratitude in thoſe who receive, ſince they receive it as a right. The poors-rates are now ſeverely felt in England, and every method ought to be taken to prevent their becoming ſo burdenſome in Scotland, which is ſo much leſs able to afford it.

School—No houſe has hitherto been built in this pariſh, for a ſchool-houſe; but the eſtabliſhed ſchool-maſter has a ſalary of 200 merks Scots, beſides the perquiſites he enjoys, as precentor, ſeſſion-clerk, and collector of poors-rates. He is qualified to teach Engliſh, Latin, writing, arithmetic and book-keeping. The ſcholars are from 40 to 60 in number; the ſchool wages are, for Engliſh, 1s 6d. per quarter; for writing, arithmetic, and Latin, 2s 6d. per quarter.

Pariſh ſchools, with teachers properly qualified, are of great importance, and ought to be encouraged, by giving ſufficient appointments. In thoſe pariſhes, where, from the ſmallneſs of the encouragement, only ignorant, low-minded ſchool-maſters, unfit to teach any thing but a poor ſmattering, can be had, the children of the peaſantry are doomed to perpetual ignorance and obſcurity. But in places, where there are teachers, liberally educated, and capable of inſtructing youth in the important parts of education, perſons of the loweſt birth have riſen to eminence and rank.

Minerals.—Coal is found here in great abundance, there being no leſs than 4 coal works in the pariſh, two on the weſt, from which a great part of the town of Hamilton is ſupplied; one in the center of the pariſh, and one upon the ſouth. Coal ſells at the pit, at from 2s. to 2s 6d per ton.—Lime has only been found in one place, viz. in the lands of Broomhill; none of which is ſold, as the proprietor retains it

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all for his own estate: The rest of the parish is, therefore, served with that commodity, from the neighbouring parish of Lesmahagow, where it abounds. Large beds of freestone are found every where in this parish; of this there are several varieties, all generally of a fine grain, and fair colour. Iron stone is also plentiful, and the waters of several springs are so strongly tinctured with it, as to deposit considerable quantities of ore in their course.

Antiquities.—In a beautiful valley upon the Clyde, a little above Dalserf village, formerly stood a Romish chapel, dedicated to St Patrick, from whence the valley takes the name of Dalpatrick. The vestiges of this chapel are still to be seen.—Another stood in the interior part of the parish, about a mile distant, upon the side of a rivulet; which hence gets the name of Chapelburn.

NUMBER XXXII.

PARISH OF DUNOON.

(COUNTY OF ARGYLE.)

By a FRIEND *to Statiſtical Inquiries.*

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THE origin of the name, Dunoon, cannot well be aſcertained. Buchanan, in the only mention he makes of it, in his hiſtory of Scotland, calls it *Novio-dunum*, deriving it from *dun*, a caſtle, and *nuadh*, new. Others aſſert, that the caſtle of Dunoon was formerly a nunnery, and that it comes from the Gaelic word, *Dun-no-oigh*, which ſignifies the houſe of the virgins. To Dunoon, the pariſh of Kilmun is annexed, which is evidently derived from the church or cell, dedicated to St Mun. His burial place is called *Sith-Mhun*, that is, Mun's burial place, or place of reſt; and the very bay on which it is ſituated, ſeems to have been conſecrated, being known by the name of *Loch-ſpeant*, or the holy loch. ——Theſe two pariſhes, at preſent united, lie in the preſbytery of Dunoon, in the ſynod and ſhire of Argyle, on the weſt ſide of the firth of Clyde, and in that diſtrict of the ſhire of Argyle, called Cowal. The extent of theſe pariſhes may be reckoned about 16 computed, or 24 meaſured miles in length, and, at an average, 2 in breadth. The general appearance of

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the country is agreeable. It enjoys an extenſive proſpect of the firth of Clyde; at the opening of which, ſtands the rock of Ailſa, about 30 miles from Dunoon, by which, on that ſide, the view is terminated. The foreign and coaſting trade of the Clyde, are perpetually paſſing, and along the coaſt, the hills are ſkirted with woods of conſiderable value. The ploughed part of the ground in the pariſh, is, in general, light and ſandy, and was once, it is believed, covered with the ſea; in particular, the banks, about Toward, exhibit rocks that were evidently daſhed by the waves*.

Caſtle, and Village of Dunoon.——The caſtle of Dunoon was once a royal caſtle, of which, the family of Argyle were conſtables. They, at one period, lived there, and many of their vaſſals had houſes built in the village of Dunoon, for their reſidence, when they attended the court of their cheftain. Theſe circumſtances, with the ferry towards Greenock, and the pariſh church, gave riſe to the village. Near the caſtle, is *tom-a-mhoid*, or the hill of the court of juſtice, and cuſpars, or the *butts*, for ſhooting with the bow and the arrow. The butts are now down, but the field where they were placed, though plowed, ſtill bears that name. The village of Dunoon was alſo the place where the biſhops of Argyle reſided, in the laſt period of Epiſcopacy in Scotland, inſtead of the iſland of Liſmore. It contains ſomewhat more than 30 families; but is reduced in regard to the number of its inhabitants, from what it was ſome years ago. For half a century,

* It is probable, that the mount on which the caſtle of Dunoon is ſituated, was once ſurrounded by the ſea; and the miniſter's glebe has a bank of ſandy clay in it, which ſeems to have been formed by the ſea.

century, it has been the reſort of a few trades people, and of ſuch farmers in the neighbourhood as have failed, with poor widows, who find here, more readily than elſewhere, a houſe, with a little ground for grain, ſuited to their circumſtances. This, the tenants in the neighbourhood plough, and the plowed ridge, or rood, is let at the rate of 7 merks, or 30s an acre, with 4 merks for a cow's graſs. This is the only grazing for milch-cows, let by itſelf, it is believed, in the pariſh, and has ſtood at the ſame rent for theſe 50 years. Such cattle as are grazed for fattening or keeping, pay, as in other places, from 5s. to 6s. for the young, and from 20s to 21s. for older cattle, during the ſummer half year.

There is no creek, or ſhelter of any conſequence, or ſafety, even for boats, at or near this village, which has probably contributed to its want of improvement. An attempt was made, once and again, to build a pier upon its ſhore; but from its openneſs to the ſouth, and the ſeverity of the ſtorms of winter, the laſt attempt, about 15 years ago, was rendered abortive. ——There was alſo an attempt to eſtabliſh an Oſnaburgh manufacture; but, after having been puſhed for ſeveral years, it alſo failed.——The people then took to the diſtilling of whiſky, which, after being carried on to ſome extent, was at once ſuppreſſed, by the harſh regulations of the Exciſe. It was a miſerable trade; but, at the ſame time, the poor people ſeem to have been too harſhly dealt with, ſince they were at once deprived of the only means of their cuſtomary ſupport, and of their whole ſtock and income, without any compenſation, or putting any other means of gaining a livelihood in their power.

In former times, the ferry at Dunoon was the principal inlet from the low country to Argyleſhire. This made it more a place of reſort. But a great road being carried by Lochlomond, round the head of Lochlong, and through Glencroe to Inverary, this has contributed to diminiſh the population of

Dunoon. But were more acres and roods of land let out, more inhabitants would probably gather to it, and it might become the ſeat of ſome uſeful manufacture. The people, that are yearly removing to Greenock, would here find, at the rent they pay, for a ſmall and confined lodging in that town, the grazing of a cow, with a little ground for ſowing grain, and room for planting a few potatoes, with a garden to afford them vegetables, a hut to live in, and nearly as good acceſs to fiſhing as any where.

Fiſhing.—Within the Firth of Clyde, particularly upon the ſhore of Dunoon, fiſh, more eſpecially what are called, ground fiſh, do not ſeem to be in abundance, excepting when herrings frequent the lochs. Other fiſh ſeem then in greater plenty to attend them; though even then, they do not ſeem ſo abundant as, in general, to encourage the north country fiſhers, who have frequented our ſhores for ſome years paſt, to lay their long lines within the firth. But in the more open ſea, at the mouth of Lochſine, about 20 or 30 miles hence, or upon the coaſt of Bute and Arran, about the ſame diſtance, fiſh of the beſt kinds are to be got. The villagers of Dunoon, alſo, find a coarſe fiſh, called Seath, which may be caught with rods and ſhort lines, all the ſummer over, when the weather is good, at rocks about a cannon-ſhot, at ſea, off the caſtle of Dunoon. But our people are far from being ſo ſkillful and induſtrious, as the north country fiſhers, who have come annually for ſome time paſt, and in greater numbers from year to year; but have as yet got no fixed reſidence on this coaſt. They were, at firſt, brought to fiſh ſalmon in the bays, and that ſtill ſeems to be their principal object; but, when the ſeaſon for fiſhing ſalmon, which continues only for about 3 months in ſummer, is over, if herrings have not become an object to them, they betake themſelves to the fiſhing of ground-fiſh, and carry them from the diſtance of, from 30, 40, or perhaps 50 miles, to Glaſ-

gow,

gow, and ſeem to find it for their advantage. But our people, though the Northlanders are ſaid to be enriching themſelves by the practice, do not ſeem inclined to follow their example, in fiſhing at all times, or for all ſorts of fiſh, though they are accuſtomed to, and fond of the fiſhing of herrings. This is ſo much the caſe, that many of them, bred to trades, as weaving, ſhoemaking, &c. leave off theſe ſedentary employments, and beſtow a conſiderable part of the year, in ſeeking for herrings, upon our own ſhores, or hiring themſelves to the buſs-fiſhing to the northward. This, with the foreign or coaſting trade from Clyde, takes many of our young men out of the country, and makes our tradeſmen quit their looms, &c. for the more chearful, and probably more profitable employments of the ſea.

Price of Labour.—The benefit, or the pleaſure, that is found by the common people, in following the ſea line, makes ſervants wages to be rather high; and, indeed, it is very difficult, to find labourers and ſervants, for any hire that can be offered. Full grown young men get L. 6 a year, or more, and with the ſhepherds, perhaps to the value of L. 7 or L. 8.—Of male-ſervants, young and old, there may be about 30, that get from perhaps L. 3 to L. 6, or L. 7; and from 60 to 68 young women ſervants, who get from 15s to L. 3.

Poor.——The poor of the pariſh, (i. e. ſuch as get any aſſiſtance from the poors box) amount to 40 or upwards, chiefly old and infirm widows, and ſome of them bed-rid.——A ſhare of the collections at the church-doors, being the only public charity they receive, is not ſufficientt in general, to pay the rent of the hut wherein they live, and to purchaſe a pair of ſhoes for the winter. They are ſupported moſtly by the private donations of the more opulent in the pariſh, who would

have found the maintainance of their own poor an eaſy burden, had the gentlemen of the county at large, exerted themſelves to ſuppreſs beggars, at leaſt, without the bounds of their reſpective pariſhes, which might have been eaſily effected. The ſynod of Argyle attempted it within theſe 15 or 20 years, and prevailed upon the Juſtices, at their public meetings, to make regulations concerning it; and many individuals in the county were active in carrying theſe regulations into execution; inſomuch, that a ſtranger beggar, for 2 or 3 years, was not to be ſeen. But the country was not yet ripe for carrying ſuch a plan into effect. Perhaps there were too many tenants in the country, within a ſtep of beggary, to make it deſirable to be too rigorous. Whether this was the cauſe or not, all regulations to check indiſcriminate begging, have, for ſome years, been entirely laid aſide.

Character of the People—The people of the pariſh are juſtly accounted ſober, inoffenſive, and diſcreet; reſpectful to their ſuperiors, charitable to one another, and the young remarkably attentive to their parents, who often ſtand in need of their aſſiſtance, when they grow old.——The general relaxation of manners, that has, perhaps, been increaſing here, as well as elſewhere, for theſe 30 years paſt, with the near neighbourhood of a much frequented ſeaport town, may lead the young people to aſſemble oftener together, and lengthen out their meetings to a later hour, than they were accuſtomed to do, 40 or 50 years ago. But theſe indulgences do not ſeem to be attended with any very bad conſequences. The people on the whole, are not remarkable for any thing vicious. Many of them are lively, ſhrewd, and fit for carrying on the common buſineſs of the country, and gradually emancipating themſelves from all the bad effects attendant on the feudal adminiſtration.

Language.

Language—The language of the parish is changing much, from the coming in of low-country tenants, from the constant intercourse our people have with their neighbours, but above all, from our schools, particularly, those established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. Hence the English or Scottish language is universally spoke by almost all ages, and sexes. But the Gaelic is still the natural tongue with them, their fireside language, and the language of their devotions. They now begin, however, to attend public worship in English as well as Erse, which 30 years ago they did not do.

Schools.—There are at least 8 schools in the parish, for teaching to read and write; some of them are held only in winter. but four of them all the year round. The winter schools are taught by children from 12 to 15 years of age, who go from house to house, for about 20s. and their maintainance, to teach younger children than themselves; and it is surprising with what success they go through that business.

Ecclesiastical State——The stipend is about L. 83, with a manse, a glebe of about 10 acres, and a garden. The church of Dunoon is in a state of but indifferent repair. Kilmun kirk, where is the burial place of the family of Argyle, is kept in much better order. The Duke of Argyle is patron.

Fuel.—Peats are the fuel generally used by the common people, and formerly also by the gentry, when they had more tenants, and when they were less usefully employed, for themselves and their landlords. Now, coals brought from Glasare generally burnt by the gentry, and sometimes also by the common people, particularly those who lie upon the shore, who find the getting of peats more expensive than it used to be, and uncertain, from the weather, which, for some

years

years paſt, has been unfavourable to getting peats properly brought home and dried, particularly laſt ſummer and harveſt, when the rain was almoſt perpetual.

Climate—Though in this part of country, we have had, for a good many years, a great deal of rainy weather, (in which however, we do not ſeem to be ſingular,) yet the pariſh, on the whole, cannot be called unhealthy. We have commonly no ſickneſs, or fatal diſtemper, except from old age, and the complaints peculiar to children; and even theſe laſt, are not, in general, fatal. Epidemical diſtempers are leſs felt here, than in moſt other places. The ſea fortunately intervenes with the more frequented parts of the country, and theſe complaints, commonly coming round the heads of our lochs, are much ſpent, and their violence often gone, before they can reach us.

Dreſs, &c.——Our neighbourhood to Greenock leads our young people to be expenſive in their attire, and to imitate ſuch as affect the manners and dreſs of thoſe who rank higher than themſelves. The young woman, who 50 years ago, thought of endeavouring to make 100 or 200 merks for her portion, now ſinks all the money ſhe makes, in dreſs and ornament. The ſcarlet cloak, that only covered the ſhoulders of our ladies 50 years ago, now falls down to the heels of the ſervant maids; and many of them purchaſe a ſilk gown to be married in. The young men alſo, though more attentive to the gathering of a ſmall ſtock before marriage, than the maids are, generally have an Engliſh cloth coat for Sunday, and a watch in their pocket. The native Highlanders, it is remarked, in general, ſeem fonder of dreſs and ſhow, than the Southland ſhepherds that have come amongſt us. Theſe laſt alſo are ſaid to be more thrifty in houſe-keeping, and conſequently can

ſave more of the produce of their farms, than the Highlanders, are yet accuſtomed to.——It is likely that the Lowlanders examplewill be followed in that, as it isalready in managing their ſheep-ſtocks, and in acquiring more independance on their landlords, than was formerly uſual. The tenants all now get tacks, maintain better the bargains they make with the proprietor, and know better the way to courts, independant of him.

Sheep-Farming.—Theſe Southland ſhepherds have, within theſe 40 or 50 years, altered almoſt entirely the ſtock of the mountains, from black cattle and horſes, to ſheep, by which they have raiſed the rents, over all this country, conſiderably, as well as enriched themſelves. There is one of them from Teviotdale, now an heritor in this pariſh, and in the neighbourhood, to the amount of, perhaps, L. 300 a year, who from a ſtock, it is ſaid, of only L. 50, has acquired, within 50 years, by ſheep-farming, property to that amount; and has the ſtock of two or three ſmall farms, (perhaps 1000 ſheep,) into the bargain.——To theſe ſhepherds our open weather ſeems, on the whole, more agreeable than hard ſeaſons, eſpecially of ſnow, of which we have had but little, and, in general, of ſhort continuance, for many years paſt.

Agriculture.—The number of farmers, by the introduction of ſheep and other cauſes has certainly decreaſed. Many of the tackſmen, however, ſtill continue to retain ſome ſubtenants, who, having a cow's graſs, ſome ground to raiſe potatoes, and a little grain, for the ſake of the ſtraw, as fodder during the winter, with the opportunity of fiſhing, &c. find themſelves eaſier and better off, than when they occupied a larger poſſeſſion; and even thoſe who have been obliged to emigrate, have in general, ſettled at Greenock, where they ſeem better

ter fed and clothed, than when they reſided here.——— The number of ploughs in the whole pariſh, may be about 85; and at the rate of 12 bolls to each plough, there may be about 1000 bolls ſown between bear and oats, which may give at leaſt 4000 bolls increaſe. There may be 150, or from that to 200 bolls of potatoes ſown or planted, which may give from 15 to 20 bolls of produce each. They are more cultivated within theſe 20 years, and more in the drill way than in former days, and add much to the food of the common people. They make, with ſalted herrings, a cheap and not an unpleaſant meal for winter.——Notwithſtanding our bad weather, the crops are not much to be complained of; perhaps our ſoil and culture rather agreeing with rain than drought. And from the herrings that are taken in our bays, the addition to our food from the more frequent culture of potatoes, the opportunities the people have of making money, by the buſs-fiſhing, and the coaſting trade of Clyde, with the good ſale and price of cattle, the people, upon the whole, ſeem more at eaſe, and leſs diſpoſed to complain, than 40 or 50 years ago, though rents are riſing continually, with the continued increaſe of the nominal value or price of all kinds of proviſions.

The crops of 1782 and 1783 were, with us, cut down much greener than uſual; but in threſhing, and even in milling, there did not ſeem ſo much cauſe for complaint, as was feared; nay, it ſeemed to yield generally above their expectations, and to give them an opinion, that, before that time, they allowed their crops to ripen too much.

Statiſtical Table of the Pariſh of Dunoon, Anno 1791.

Number of proprietors - - -	14
——— of proprietors reſident - - -	3
Number of families - - - -	334

Number

Number of examinable perſons above 8 or 10 years of age	1123
—— of ſouls	1683
Population, An. 1755	1757
Average of deaths, about	19
—— of marriages	15
—— of baptiſms	58
Married couples 275. Married people	550
Widows	17
Widowers	95
Old maids, or unmarried women above 45	9
Old bachelor	1
Children at ſchool, (about)	240

From comparing the number of our births, with our deaths and marriages, it is evident, that many born in the pariſh remove from it, both before and after marriage, and never return. Many, in particular, go into the naval and military ſervice of their country, eſpecially into the navy; into which, it is ſaid, 90 young men went from one diſtrict of the pariſh, during the American war.

Nothing elſe occurs, that ſeems to merit attention; though a more accurate obſerver might probably diſcover many other facts, worthy of being communicated to the public, and might be able to draw many inferences from them, equally curious in themſelves, and intereſting to the country.

NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH OF WILTON.

(SHIRE OF ROXBURGH.)

Situation, Soil, &c.

THE parish of Wilton does not furnish much room for statistical investigation. It is situated in the presbytery of Jedburgh, and synod of Merse and Teviotdale.——The soil, more especially along the banks of the Teviot, is fruitful and well cultivated.——There are several marle pits in the neighbourhood; some of which have been drained, and, are of great benefit to the farmers. Lime, also, is made use of as a manure.

Population.——The population, in 1755, as returned to Dr Webster, amounted to 936 souls. The number, at present, is nearly the same, being rather above 900. The average of marriages, for the last 3 years, is 13, of baptisms, 20, and of deaths, 8; but these numbers cannot be accounted precisely accurate, as all are not recorded.

Poor.——There is an assessment for the poor, amounting to L. 100 *per annum*. The heritors and kirk-session meet quarterly

quarterly to lay it on. The tenants are not mentioned in the ſtatute, but their attendance is deſired, as they pay one half of any ſum that is impoſed, and are beſt acquainted with the ſtate of the poor, in their own neighbourhood. The buſineſs is tranſacted without expence, excepting the fees of the clerk, and of the collector. The number of penſioners is between 30 and 40. The price of a ſtone of meal per week, is uſually given to a boarder. To an old perſon, who can work a little, the price of half a ſtone. To a widow's children, at the ſame rate, per week, for each. For nurſing a child, 2s 6d weekly. The penſioners ſign an aſſignation to the pariſh, of all their effects, which are rouped at their death. It is, at preſent, in contemplation, to aliment the poor with a weekly allowance of meal, inſtead of money, which may more effectually enſure a ſubſiſtence, and prevent an improper uſe of the public bounty. Some ſaving may be made, alſo, by purchaſing the meal when it is cheap. School-wages for the children of the poor, medical aid, and incidental expences, are paid by the collections at the church doors, and mort-cloth money, which amount to about L. 15 a year. It would be an important object of inquiry, to aſcertain, how far the levying of theſe aſſeſſments, or, poors-rates, has anſwered any uſeful purpoſe, or whether the poor are comparatively in a much worſe ſituation, where they are not levied.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.——The valuation of the pariſh is L. 7545 : 16 : 8 Scots.——The Duke of Buccleugh is patron, and principal heritor.——Lord Napier, and ſeveral feuers, or ſmaller proprietors, reſide in it.——The ſtipend is ſmall; but the glebe is large and valuable.——The pariſh ſchool-maſter has the legal ſalary of 100 merks, a dwelling houſe, and ſchool-houſe. There are alſo two village

schools.——The Seceders are numerous; and there are a few of the Episcopal and Relief persuasions.——A carpet manufactory employs 14, and an inkle 19 looms.——The people are, in general, industrious, sober-minded, compassionate, and devout.——Work is not difficult to be had; and provisions are reasonable. The dearth of fuel is the greatest hardship, which the poor experiences, in this part of the country.

NUMBER XXXIV.

PARISH OF MONIMAIL.

(SHIRE OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. MR. SAMUEL MARTIN.

Name.

BETWEEN Lindore's loch, in the pariſh of Abdie, and the village of Monimail, where the church ſtands, and from which the pariſh is named, there is a hill, or riſing ground, over which lies the road between Perth and Cupar. The length of this hill is ſuppoſed to have given riſe to the name, *Monimail*, "At the foot of a hill one mile over." It is often written and pronounced, *Money-Meal*, and ſtrangers ſuppoſe, that it denotes, a "pariſh of plenty," abounding in meal and money: but the number of Gaelic names in the neighbourhood, diſcountenances this etymology.

Form, Extent, and Situation.——There is a large map of Fife, by Ainſlie. The boundaries of the pariſh of Monimail are not perfectly marked in it, though nearly exact. Its figure is ſomewhat oval, about four feet by three.——Excepting on the north and eaſt, the lands are flat and fertile. A marſh, of about 30 acres, (Lethem mire,) and the heights on the north and eaſt are capable of little culture.——It is remarkable,

markable, that, in this neighbourhood, both to the north and ſouth of the Eden, the ſoil, in riſing from the plain, becomes richer; but is thin and ſandy in the low grounds.—The hills are rather green than heathy. The Mount-hill is of conſiderable height, and has been planted for ſeveral years. Veſſels, on making the land from the eaſt ſeas, are aſſiſted and directed by this mount, and by Monzie church, which ſtands on the top of an eminence beneath it, as a land mark.——— The ſituation of the pariſh, in general, is dry and ſalubrious. No peculiar epidemical diſtempers are known. The inhabitants are healthy; and there are ſeveral inſtances of conſiderable longevity.—About half a mile north of the church, there is a ſpring, known by the name of Cardan's Well: It is of no repute at preſent, but was highly eſteemed by the famous Cardan, who uſed it much; and, in particular, he is ſaid, with this mineral water, to have cured Hamilton, Archbiſhop of St. Andrews, of a dropſy.—The pariſh is well watered; but its different brooks, or waters, as they are called, are none of them conſiderable.

Thunder-Storms.——On the 27th October, 1733, Melvill-houſe was ſtruck with a remarkable thunder ſtorm. The whole houſe, on every ſide, and from top to bottom, was affected. The ſtream of lightning, it is ſuppoſed, was attracted by a long iron ſpike, on the top of a cupola covered with lead. The effects of it were felt, and are ſtill viſible in almoſt every part of the houſe: providentially no perſon was materially hurt. Profeſſor M'Claurin, at Lord Leven's deſire, examined the progreſs and veſtiges of the ſtorm*.——In a large mirror, a piece, of the ſize of a crown, was melted, and no crack

* See his letter to Sir Hans Sloan, in Pennant's Tour.

crack or flaw whatever appears in any other place. Many ſplinters were torn out of the ſolid wainſcoting, particularly a thin one, about the breadth of a half foot joiner's rule, was beaten 14 feet from the top of the finiſhing, on the floor, where it made a deep impreſſion, which ſtill remains. One of the chimney tops was thrown down, and ſome of the ſtones carried 100 yards into the garden.——In July 1783, about ſix o'clock in the morning, a girl and boy were killed with lightning. Peals of thunder, with vivid lightning, were that morning loud and frequent. The mother was a helpleſs palſied woman, and had been carried from her bed to the fire-ſide. The boy, who was much frightened with the thunder, was ſtanding before the fire. The girl was ſeated oppoſite to her mother, feeding the fire with bruſh wood. On the deſcent of the lightning, the boy fell back, and was, for ſome time, believed to be the only perſon affected: the girl retained her ſitting poſture, and was not ſuppoſed to be injured. A dog lay motionleſs more than an hour, but on being thrown out as dead, revived and recovered entirely. The poor mother ſaid, ſhe thought the fire, that came down from the heavens, completely involved her with the reſt. The ſhock had no effect on her health, or conſtitution, either favourable or unfavourable. What the miniſter, who was ſent for on the awful occaſion, ſaw of the bodies of the children, was firm and well coloured, as in life.

Population.—Dr Webſter ſtates the number of inhabitants to be 884. The regiſters have been carefully examined, in order to aſcertain the population, at different periods, but it is found, that they cannot be relied on. The inaccuracy of the records may be variouſly accounted for, in this, as well as in other pariſhes. Vacancies, the negligence of parents, the careleſsneſs of ſeſſion clerks, the illegal with-holding of the

the dues by diſſenters, &c. each of theſe circumſtances may occaſion omiſſions. For ſome years back, (on which greater confidence may be placed,) the average is, births, 30,—marriages 9,—and deaths $8\frac{7}{8}$ yearly. In January 1791, there were,

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Above 70	23	20	43
—— 50	64	78	142
—— 20	200	236	436
—— 10	117	91	208
			—— 829
Below 10 of both ſexes			272
Total number of the inhabitants			1101
The number of families			241
Average number in each			4.5277

Of the different ranks in life, there are 2 noblemen, (of one of whom, the Earl of Leven and Melvill, it is remarkable, that the ſucceſſion canbe traced, in direct deſcent, from father to ſon, for 18 generations; the other, Lord Ruthven, is a minor); 8 heritors, reſident and non-reſident; 1 miniſter, 1 preacher, 1 ſtudent of theology; 1 public and 1 private teacher, 1 ſchool-miſtreſs; 30 farmers, 35 weavers, 7 ſhoemakers, 8 taylors, 11 carpenters, 3 brewers, 1 baker, 3 maſons, 4 ſhepherds, and 5 ſmiths.

With regard to religious opinions, there are 55 diſſenters; 27 of whom, are Antiburgher Seceders, 2 Independants, and the other 26 are Epiſcopals, Burgher Seceders, and members of the preſbytery of Relief.

Of married couples there are 172, bachelors 38, and widowers,

flowers, who are heads of families, and ſingle women, in houſes of their own, 31.

There are three corn mills, and one lint-mill, driven by water. Two threſhing-mills; one driven by horſes, one by water. 5 ſmall retail ſhops. There is no occaſion for any lawyer, attorney, phyſician, or ſurgeon, in this pariſh, as the town of Cupar ſupplies its environs, with legal and medical aid.

Agriculture.—The mode of managing lands is the ſame that obtains in the low country in general: conſiſting of rotations of crops, hay, turnips, incloſing, and draining. The face of the pariſh is conſiderably changed of late, and improvements are ſtill going forward. The productions are the ſame with thoſe of the reſt of Fife and the Lothians. Conſiderable quantities of wheat and barley are annually exported, or otherwiſe ſent away. The raiſing of black cattle is now more attended to, than formerly. Of 8 ſmall flocks of ſheep, 3 have been very lately ſold off, chiefly becauſe ſheep injure hedges and ſown graſs, and becauſe it is ſaid, that more profit is reaped from black cattle. There are 5 farms above L. 100 ſterling, (one of them L. 300:) the reſt from L. 70 downwards. One pretty extenſive farm rents at L. 1: 10s per acre. The average rent of good farms is below L. 1 per acre. Land of inferior quality is proportionally lower, 15s. 10s. &c. &c. Any eſtates, which have been lately ſold in this pariſh, and indeed in the neighbourhood, have brought high prices.——Farm houſes are now built more commodious and comfortable. The tenantry improve in their manners, dreſs, way of life, and form a reſpectable body of men.——The ploughs are 76 in number, made on different models: and new improvements are attended to, and tried, as they are ſuggeſted.

Church, Manſe, Stipend, &c.—The church is a long narrow building, rather old and incommodious*.

The manſe being very old, and inſufficient, a new and more commodious one is about to be erected.

In 1774, the rent roll of the pariſh was nearly L. 2500 ſterling.——The ſtipend is worth ſomewhat above L. 100. An augmentation was lately obtained.——The Earl of Leven is patron.

Prices of Proviſions, Wages, and Labour, in 1750, *and* 1790:

1750.	lb. Dutch.	1790.	lb. Dutch.
Beef - -	2 d.	- - -	4d.
Mutton - -	2d.	- - - -	4d.
Veal - -	4d.	- - -	7 d.
Hens - -	4d.	- - -	1s. 0d.
New butter -	4d.	- - - -	8d.
Salmon -	1d. & 1½d.	- - -	5d. 6d. &c.
Eggs per dozen	1½d. & 2d.	- -	3d. 4d. 5d.

And other articles in proportion.

	Per day.		Per day.
Day-labourers - -	5d.	- -	9d. 10d. 1s.
Maſter wright, or maſon	1s.	- -	1s. 3d.—1s. 6d.
Maſons, wrights	7d. 8d.	- - -	1s.
	per annum.		*per annum.*
Farm ſervants	L. 2 L. 2:10:0 and 2 pecks of meal per week		L. 6 L. 7 with meal.

Upper

* The bell is on the eaſt end of the church. It was erected about 40 years ago, when the former one became inſufficient: that bell had been uſed from the days of Robert the Bruce, as appeared by aninſcription on it. The church was new-roofed about 50 years ago.

	1750.		1790.
Upper family ſervants	L. 8 L. 10	- -	L. 20 L. 25.
Livery -	L. 4	-	L. 10 L. 12.
Maid ſervants	L. 1 : 10 L. 2	-	L. 3 L. 3 : 10 L. 4.

The ſuppreſſion of vails operated conſiderably to increaſe the wages of family ſervants.——This liſt, which applies to Fife in general, is a ſtrong argument for the augmentation of miniſters ſtipends, ſchoolmaſters, and the ſalaries of all ſtipendaries.

Names of Places.——The moſt, of perhaps all, the old names are Gaelic; *Balintagart*, the prieſt's town; *Letham*, the ſide of the hill; *Fairnie*, a moiſt place where alders grow; *Cunoquhie*, head of a corn field, &c. Some are modern. The Bow of Fife is the name of a few houſes on the road to Cupar. Whether this uncommon name is taken from a bending of the road, as ſome ſuppoſe, or, as others, from the meetings of the farmers in old times, to fix the prices of grain, (the bolls being pronounced bows,) cannot be determined. It has been thought, that this ſpot is nearly the centre of Fife: this is alſo offered as the reaſon of the name.—— Letham is the principal village. On the firſt week of June, there is a conſiderable fair held at it. Eaſter Fairnie is next in ſize: Monimail is ſmaller. Other cluſters of houſes ſcarcely deſerve the name of villages.

Antiquities.——Near the church, and within Melvill park, there is a ſquare tower in pretty good preſervation. Its age is uncertain; but it was repaired by Cardinal Bethune, and was his reſidence, 1562. There are ſeveral diſtinct heads of the Cardinal, in his cap, in ſtone relievo on the walls. The arms of the family of Bethune are alſo intire. The tower is

evidently part of a large building, the remains of which are very viſible.—The houſe of Fairnie is believed to be one of M'Duff's caſtles. Its walls are uncommonly thick: it is very old, and has been a place of ſtrength.——— A ſtrip of land in the farm of Ladifron, belonging to Mr Paterſon of Cunoquhie, is called the temple. There is a tradition, that a prieſt lived here, who had a right to every ſeventh acre of Ladifron, and to the tathing (dung as left on the ground) every ſeventh night.

Tradition ſays, there was a dreadful battle, fought on the N. W. boundary of the pariſh, between the Scots and the Danes. A hillock, called Doulie-cairy Knoll, is ſaid to have received its name from the battle, (*ſorrow and care*).

Longevity.—A woman (Helen Gray) died in this pariſh, in the 105 year of her age. She was born in Tealand, near Dundee. The pariſh regiſter was conſulted, but in vain. The death of Archbiſhop Sharp, ſhe diſtinctly remembered: If ſhe was 3 years old then, ſhe was 105 at her death. She was a little woman, remarkably chearful. Some years before her death, ſhe had a new ſet of teeth. In early life ſhe had been a ſervant in Lord Stormont's family. The ladies of the neighbourhood were much amuſed with her telling them, that Mrs Helen Murray, whom they well knew, as lady directreſs of the Edinburgh aſſemblies, was one of the young bairns ſhe remembered; and that Mr Willie, (Earl Mansfield,) when young, was a very fine laddie—(boy).

Suicide.—There has been but one inſtance of ſuicide for many years. The perſon was old, and in a confuſed, ſtupified ſtate. This event was rendered remarkable by the manner of interment. The body was brought from the houſe, through the window,

window, and buried, under night, at the extremity of the parish. A proof at once of the force of old superstitious customs, and, at the same time, of the horror so natural to be felt on such an occasion.

Poor.—The funds, for the support of the poor, arise from legacies, mort-cloths, marriages, occasional donations, but chiefly from the weekly collections at the church doors. There are 10 or 12 regular monthly pensioners. On emergencies, others are assisted. No begging is allowed. The distributions, *communibus annis*, are betwixt L. 20 and L. 30 sterling.—In 1782, and 1783, the ordinary funds, with a voluntary and unsolicited donation from the heritors, according to their valued rents, supplied the great exigencies of the poor, during these two unfortunate seasons.

Schools.—The established school-master's salary, and perquisites, as precentor and session-clerk, with the school-fees, have been reckoned to be worth about L. 14. The number of scholars varies, according to the abilities and reputation of the teacher; and those of the private teachers in the parish. 30 may be the average. The fees are, English 1s per quarter; writing 2s; arithmetic 2s; book-keeping 10s 6d a course; Latin 2s 6d per quarter. It is not doubted but this, and similar reports, will evince the necessity of more encouragement to this useful and laborious order of men.

Miscellaneous Observations.——Peats and wood are used, but in small quantities. Coals chiefly from Balgonie and Balbirnie, in the parish of Markinck, at 7d per load, of 18 stone, are the fuel of the parish. A double cart carries five loads: the carriage costs nearly the purchase in money.——Servitudes

tudes are few and dying away. Thoſe that continue, ſuch as aſſiſtance with carriages, &c. during the hay and corn harveſts, are rather voluntary and diſcretionary than exacted.——The general character of the pariſhioners has always been, that they are induſtrious, regular, quiet, and reſpectable. There are mixtures in the pureſt ſocieties, but this character is ſtill merited by the preſent race in Monimail.

NUMBER XXXV.

PARISH OF CULTS.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. MR. DAVID WILKIE.

Name, Situation, and Extent.

THE antient name of the pariſh was Qulkques or Quilkques: which, in the Gaelic, ſignifies, a "nook" or "corner."—it being disjoined from the large ſtrath, which runs from E. to W. along the banks of the Eden. It is ſituated in the preſbytery of Cupar, and in the ſynod and county of Fife: being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ Engliſh miles from E. to W. and about $2\frac{1}{4}$ from N. to S. it conſequently contains about 3.5 ſquare miles, and is nearly in the form of an oblong ſquare. It lies in the very heart of Fife, and has eaſy acceſs to both the coaſts of that county.

Surface, Soil, and Air.—The general appearance is, partly flat, declining to the north; but partly mountainous towards the ſouth. The pariſh is remarkable, for a clear air and a light ſoil. The different kinds of ſoil are, gravel, a light black earth, and a ſtrong clay; with this particular circumſtance, that, in the lower parts, along the Eden, it is gravel inclining to heath, and bent graſs; from thence to the aſcent of the hills, it is light earth, and upon their declivity, it is ſtrong clay. Upon the

the whole, the air is dry and healthy, except that the lower ground is ſubject to fogs. The moſt prevalent diſtempers, not to mention thoſe peculiar to children, are fevers and conſumptions; but this cannot be attributed to the local ſituation. The greateſt ſtorms of rain and ſnow are from the E. acroſs the German ocean; the higheſt winds from the S. W.

River.—The Eden riſes about 8 miles to the W. and falls into the bay of St Andrews, about 7 miles to the E. Being fed by a number of rivulets, and having a pretty level courſe, it is never very low, even in the drieſt ſummer. It is not navigable at preſent, to any diſtance from its mouth, owing to the many mill-dykes, by which it is croſſed. Were it thought neceſſary, for promoting the commerce of the county, it might be made navigable, though at a conſiderable expence, for 12 or 14 miles; through which it has a fall probably of about 40 feet. Next to the want of commerce, to defray the expence, the greateſt diſadvantage would be, the danger of entering its mouth, on account of ſhoals and quickſands. Its banks being ſomewhat high on both ſides, in its courſe through this pariſh, there is little danger from land floods. The greateſt riſe of the river for theſe 50 years paſt, was in May 1782. From the exceſs of rain, our crops then failed ſo much, that had the culture of potatoes been unknown, and the importation of grain as little practiſed, as in the end of the laſt century, there would have been as great a famine, as in the former period. ——The Eden produces trout, pike, and a few ſalmon; which laſt are ſo much diminiſhed, by the number of ſeals, which frequent its mouth, that few are caught for ſale.

Hills.—On the ſouth-ſide of the pariſh, are the Walton and Pitleſſie hills; not conſiderable for their height; and connected with each other by riſing grounds. They are covered moſtly

ly with graſs; in part, with whins, and in part with heath. The Walton hill has many *foſſæ* and ramparts cut along its ſide, which are ſuppoſed to be the remains of a Roman camp, when Agricola invaded Scotland, and encamped one part of his army here, and the other at Newtyle in Angus. Many urns have been dug up, full of bones, on and near this hill.

Minerals.—There is abundance of free-ſtone and lime-ſtone quarries; both excellent; particularly the latter, for the lime ſhells of which, there is great demand, both in Fife and in Angus. The ſtrata are from 2 to 10 feet below the ſurface, and are wrought, without having much recourſe to the aſſiſtance of gun-powder. There were coal mines ſometime ago upon the eſtate of Bonzion; which were employed chiefly for burning lime. They might ſtill be wrought to advantage.

Animals.—Horſes and black cattle have been much improved, in the courſe of theſe 20 or 30 years, owing to incloſing ground, and ſowing graſs-ſeeds. Horſes chiefly are employed, in agriculture, and ſell from L. 12 to L. 15 ſterling. Oxen ſell from L. 7 to L. 12. The rearing of theſe, has diminiſhed the breed of ſheep ſo much, that in place of 4 or 5 flocks, there is now only one.

Population.—The number of the people has increaſed within theſe 40 years; owing chiefly to the great number of ſmall feus, which have been granted during that period. If the ſeſſion record for baptiſms may be depended on, the

Number of inhabitants, in 1751, was -	464
The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was -	449
Number of inhabitants at preſent (1791) is	534

Annual average of births, for 18 years past, is	17.6
of deaths	10.
of marriages - -	6.5
Proportion between annual births and the whole population, - -	as 1 to 30
marriages -	as 1 to 81.7
deaths -	as 1 to 53

Number of souls under 10 years of age -	116
from 10 to 20 -	92
from 20 to 30 - -	74
from 30 to 40 - -	58
from 40 to 50 -	59
from 50 to 60 - -	58
from 60 to 70 - -	57
from 70 to 80 -	22
from 80 to 90 - -	4
	534

Acres, Culture, Rent, &c.——There are about 2100 Scots acres in the parish; of which there may be 720 employed in raising corn and roots; 20 in flax; 160 sown with grass seeds for hay or pasture; 800, including hill and muir, in pasture; and 400 in fir plantations. Rent per acre may be from 5s. to L. 2 sterling. The rent of a farm of 200 acres, hill and dale, may be about L. 130. The size of farms in general, is 100, 200, or 300 acres. Their number has rather diminished.—— There are a number of inclosures upon particular farms. In the parish are about 22 ploughs, mostly two-horse ploughs.— The real rent of the whole parish may be about L. 1060 sterling; the valued rent is L. 2069 : 6 : 8 Scots.

Heritors, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.——There are 3 heritors, one

one of whom only reſides.——The church and manſe are, at leaſt 150 years old. The united college of St Andrews are patrons; and the living, including the glebe, may be worth about L. 65 a year. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 100 merks; the number of ſcholars about 40: the fee for teaching Engliſh is 1s. per quarter, and other articles in proportion.——The number of poor is about 12; and the funds for their ſupport, about L. 10 yearly.

Wages, Prices, &c—The wages of a day-labourer are 10d. beſides which, he has little ſpots of ground, for potatoes and for lint, by the manufacture of which his wife and daughters are enabled to contribute to the common ſupport. As double-hecked ſpinning-wheels are univerſally uſed, there is no county in Scotland perhaps, where ſo much is made by ſpinning as in Fife. The uſual wages of a male ſervant, employed in huſbandry are L. 5 or L. 6 yearly; of a female ſervant, 20s or 25s. the half year. The common fuel is coal from Balbirnie, or Balgonie, which coſts at the hill 7d. per load, beſides 2s 3d. per cart for carriage. Houſes for labourers let from 4s. to 20s. a year.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations—There are 3 corn-mills, 2 barley mills, 2 lint mills, 2 threſhing machines, and 1 malt mill driven by water. There is one ſtone bridge acroſs the Eden. The public road from Kirkcaldy to Dundee has got ſeveral partial repairs, but is ſtill nearly in a ſtate of nature. The ſtatute labour has been exacted moſtly in kind; but there are now turnpikes whereby the roads may in time be improved. There is one inn, and four licenſed ale-houſes in the pariſh.

Mr Wilkie (the writer of the preceding observations) is the person alluded to, in the Statistical Account of Scotland, vol. I. (Parish of Kettle), page 377: In justice to whom, it is proper to mention, that there was a very material error of the press. Instead of "This table, upon trial, is found to answer better for Scotland than any yet published by Mr Wilkie," it ought to have been printed thus: "This table, upon trial, is found by Mr Wilkie, to answer better for Scotland, than any yet published." The fact is, Mr Wilkie himself constructed that very important table.——It may be proper to add, that in a letter from Mr Wilkie on the subject of annuities, he communicates the following particulars, which seem to be highly worthy of being laid before the public.——"I have had an opportunity (says he) of forming a table of the probabilities of life, for the county of Fife, from the bills of mortality in the neighbouring parish of Kettle; in which the several ages of the deceased, have been accurately recorded.—This table, I find, differs materially from all the English tables, upon the same subject. For example,

By my table	By Dr Halley's table.
$\frac{1}{30}$ of infants die the 1st year.	$\frac{1}{5}$ of infants die the 1st year.
$\frac{1}{14}$ die the 2d year.	$\frac{1}{7}$ die the second year.
Expectation of an infant's life = 40.6 years.	Expectation of an infant's life = 28 years.
Greatest value of a life at 4 per cent. corresponding to 5 years of age = 18.1.	Greatest value of a life at 4 per cent. corresponding to 5 years of age = 16.4.

"My table not only agrees exactly with the present population of the parish of Kettle, but with the lives of ministers and of their widows in Scotland at large: Supposing their mean age of ordination and of widowhood, to be respectively, 30

and 48 years. At 30 years of age, 32.27 years=a miniſter's expectation of life. At 48 years of age, 19.44 years = widow's expectation of life; which laſt, multiplied by 19.3, the number of widows left yearly, produces 375.2 = maximum of annuitants upon the widows ſcheme."

"Farther, from 36 pariſh accounts, publiſhed in the firſt volume of the Statiſtical Account of Scotland, it appears, there are 46,625 ſouls in theſe pariſhes: the mean number of births and deaths is 1156. Hence $\frac{46625}{1156}$ =40.3, the expectation of an infant's life in theſe 36 pariſhes; which agrees almoſt exactly with the ſame expectation by my table. Many of theſe pariſhes are in different counties, and ſituated widely remote from each other."

Mr Wilkie propoſes ſoon to publiſh a book "On the Theo-" ory of Intereſt ſimple and compound, derived from firſt " principles, and applied to annuities: With an illuſtration " of the Widows Scheme in the Church of Scotland:"—A work, which will probably throw much light upon theſe important ſubjects of inquiry. In the mean while, the following table of the probabilities of life, derived from the bills of mortality, in the pariſh of Torthorwald, County of Dumfries, for 27 years, ending anno 1790, publiſhed in the appendix to this volume, is well entitled to be laid before the reader.

TABLE

TABLE of the Probabilities, of Life, &c.

Age.	Livg.	Dead	Age	Livg.	Dead	Age.	Livg.	Dead	Age	Livg.	Dead
0	280	32	24	204	1	48	169	2	72	88	6
1	248	10	25	203	1	49	167	2	73	82	7
2	238	2	26	202	1	50	165	2	74	75	7
3	236	2	27	201	1	51	163	2	75	68	7
4	234	2	28	200	1	52	161	2	76	61	7
5	232	2	29	199	1	53	159	2	77	54	6
6	230	2	30	198	1	54	157	2	78	48	6
7	228	2	31	197	1	55	155	2	79	42	5
8	226	1	32	196	1	56	153	2	80	37	4
9	225	1	33	195	1	57	151	3	81	33	3
10	224	1	34	194	1	58	148	3	82	30	3
11	223	1	35	193	1	59	145	3	83	27	3
12	222	1	36	192	1	60	142	4	84	24	3
13	221	1	37	191	2	61	138	4	85	21	3
14	220	2	38	189	2	62	134	4	86	18	3
15	218	2	39	187	2	63	130	4	87	15	3
16	216	2	40	185	2	64	126	4	88	12	3
17	214	2	41	183	2	65	122	4	89	9	2
18	212	2	42	181	2	66	118	4	90	7	2
19	210	2	43	179	2	67	114	4	91	5	1
20	208	1	44	177	2	68	110	5	92	4	1
21	207	1	45	175	2	69	105	5	93	3	1
22	206	1	46	173	2	70	100	6	94	2	1
23	205	1	47	171	2	71	94	6	95	1	1

By this Table, the number of inhabitants is to that of births or burials, as 14040—140 is to 280, that is as 49.64 is to 1. And the expectation of life, by the above Table, is as follows:

Age.	Expec.	Age.	Expec.	Age.	Expec.	Age.	xpec.
0	49.64	25	41.14	50	22.26	75	7.16
5	54.69	30	37.11	55	18.54	80	6.20
10	51.57	35	33.01	60	14.98	85	4.12
15	47.90	40	29.31	65	12.03	90	2.64
20	45.09	45	25.85	70	9.10	95	0 50

The

The moſt valuable age by this table, is that of 2 years old, whoſe expectations of life, is 56¼ years, which is exceedingly high, and can only be applied to a country diſtrict in Scotland.

The above table of the probabilities of life is a ſtriking evidence, that Engliſh or foreign tables of obſervations do not correſpond with Scottiſh lives;—ſeeing by theſe, the expectation of infancy does not exceed 25, or at moſt 28 years, whereas here, it wants but a trifle of 50. And if the value of life, were computed by the above table, at a given rate of intereſt, the difference would alſo be conſiderable, which would ſtill increaſe, did the practice of inoculation every where prevail. Hence, a table of equal decrements, conſtructed upon the ſuppoſition, that 91 was the utmoſt extent of human life, would be better adapted to Scottiſh lives, than M. de Moivre's hypotheſis, wherein that extent is fixed at 86 years.

It may be here obſevred, that if we had tables of obſervation, adapted to the ſeveral counties in Scotland, it would be eaſy to find the number of inhabitants, from the amount of births and burials. Thus, where they are equal, either of them multiplied by an infant's expectation, call it, for inſtance, 40, will produce the population. But where there is a difference, which is generally the caſe, the half of their ſum, multiplied by an infant's expectation, adapted to the particular diſtrict, will give the number of the people. It would be very deſirable therefore, to have extracts from the regiſters of all the pariſhes in Scotland, where exact accounts are kept of the ages of the deceaſed, for the purpoſe of drawing up complete tables of the probabilities of lives, calculated for Scotland.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF COLLESSIE.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. MR. ANDREW WALKER.

Name, Situation, &c.

BOTH the antient, and the modern name of this pariſh, as far as it can now be aſcertained, is Colleſſie, derived, it is ſuppoſed, from the Gaelic: in which language, *Col* is ſaid to ſignify the *bottom*, and *leſſie*, a *den*; and the village, indeed, is ſituated at the bottom of a den.——It lies in the preſbytery of Cupar, and in the ſynod and county of Fife. Its length is about 8 Engliſh miles, and its breadth about 5.—The ſouth ſide of the pariſh is remarkably flat; and there is ſcarcely a ſtone, great or ſmall, to be ſeen in it. The north-weſt ſide is ſomewhat hilly. The arable part is extremely fertile. The air is in general healthy. The moſt prevailing diſtemper, 50 or 60 years ago, was the ague. It now viſits us but ſeldom, ſince the late improvements by draining, &c.

River, Loch, &c.—The Eden runs about 3, miles along the ſouth ſide of the pariſh, from weſt to eaſt. Thence it proceeds to Cupar, and empties itſelf into the German ocean, near

near St Andrews. It abounds with fine trout. In ſeed-time and harveſt, it uſed to overflow its banks, and to do conſiderable damage. But, about 5 years ago, its courſe was made ſtraight; in conſequence of which, it flows without interruption, and the adjacent grounds have become quite ſecure. A large loch, on the ſouth-weſt ſide of the pariſh was drained, *anno* 174$\frac{0}{1}$. It contains upwards of 300 acres, which produces a conſiderable quantity of natural hay, and paſtures, during the ſummer ſeaſon, above 120 head of cattle. In winter, however, it has ſtill the appearance of a loch, and is frequented by a great variety of wild fowl, ſwans, &c.

Population.—The number of ſouls, as reported to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 989. After a very exact ſurvey this year, (1791) they were found to amount to 949. The decreaſe is owing to the junction of farms, and to the number of cot houſes which have been ſuffered to fall into decay. In the principal village, called Kinloch, there are 191 ſouls. For theſe laſt ten years, ending 1790, the average of marriages is 6, of births, 17, and of burials, 11$\frac{1}{2}$. The regiſter, however, is not perfectly exact; clandeſtine marriages often taking place, and many of the Seceders give no information, to the ſeſſion clerk, of the births of their children.

Longevity.—In the village of Colleſſie, there is a very old man, (Thomas Garrick) who, from the beſt information that can be got, is in the 108th year of his age. He has reſided many years in this pariſh, but was born in Perth ſhire. He was a ſoldier, in the Duke of Argyle's regiment, in the year 1715. For nearly 20 years paſt, he has never been known confined to his bed by ſickneſs, for a ſingle day. He is of a ſhort ſtature, thin make, wears his own hair, and has been for ſome years paſt much afflicted with deafneſs. But, on the

whole, he is ſtill very healthy, and, in a ſummer day, will walk two miles from his own home, and back again. About 9 years ago he married his third wife, a woman of 45; but he ſtill keeps the whole houſe under proper ſubjection. He is principally ſupported out of the public funds. Other inſtances of longevity are not wanting in this diſtrict. There are a few above 80, and 1 or 2 upwards of 90 years of age.

Eccleſiaſtical State.—The living, when grain ſells well, may be valued at L. 100 *per annum*, including the glebe. Mr Johnſton of Lathriſk is patron, and one of the principal heritors. There are many diſſenters, of every denomination in the pariſh; but by far the greateſt number adhere to the eſtabliſhed church.

Antiquities.—Not far from the village of Colleſſie, to the weſt, there are the remains of two caſtles, or fortifications. The one is ſituated in a wet, and marſhy ſpot. Upon the weſt ſide of it, there is an earthen mound, of a circular form, about an Engliſh mile in length, and about 30 feet high, above the level of the ground in the neighbourhood. Some ſay, that it was a place of obſervation; and there is indeed a very good view from it. Others imagine, that the mound was conſtructed by an enemy for the purpoſe of damming up the ſtream that comes from Colleſſie den, in order to force the caſtle to ſurrender. This ſtream runs, at preſent, through the middle of the mound, at a place called Gadding; ſo named, from the water burſting through it. About 8 years ago, an urn was found, near the mound, containing ſome human bones, all of which ſeemed to have been burnt. ——The other fortification is called the *Maiden Caſtle*. The tradition concerning it, is, that during the time of the ſiege, the governor died, and his daughter, concealing his death, gave the neceſſary or-

ders in his name, and thus made the caſtle hold out, until the enemy raiſed the ſiege.——In the middle of this ruin, there are two ſtones fixed in the ground, (covering, it is ſuppoſed, human bones,) but of no very remarkable ſize.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The number of the greater heritors, is 12; of whom 6 reſide in the pariſh. There are alſo a number of feuers, or ſmaller proprietors.——There are no turnpikes; but the roads and bridges, in general, are in good repair. The rent of the beſt arable land is, at an average, between 30 and 40s. the acre; the next beſt about 20s.——The number of ploughs may be about 60.——There are only 3 flocks of ſheep, the largeſt of which belongs to Lord Leven.——A conſiderable part of the pariſh is incloſed, and incloſures are going forward.——The common fuel is coals, brought about 6½ miles from Balbirnie, or Balgonie.——The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is about L. 8 Sterling, with a dwelling houſe, ſchool houſe, and a ſmall garden; and the dues paid him by his ſcholars, who, at an average, are about 40 in number. The poor who get ſupplies, either ſtatedly or occaſionally, are about 10. The only funds, for their relief, are, the collections at the church doors, amounting, at an average, to L. 11. or L. 12 yearly, and a mortification from the Roſſie family of a boll of meal *per annum*.——Upon the proſpect of a war, many of our young men have ſhewn themſelves ready to ſerve their country, both by ſea and land. None have been under the neceſſity of emigrating from this pariſh, for want of employment, and none have died of want.

NUMBER

NUMBER XXXVII.

PARISH OF DENNY.

(COUNTY OF STIRLING.)

By the Rev. MR. THOMAS FERGUS.

Name, Situation, &c.

THE origin of the name of Denny is unknown.——The parish lies in the county and presbytery of Stirling, and synod of Perth and Stirling.—It is about 4 miles in length, and 2½ in breadth.—The soil, about the town, or village of Denny, and indeed throughout the greater part of the parish, is dry and sandy; but in some places, it is wet, and has a good deal of clay in it.—The air is reckoned pure and healthy, and many of the people attain a good old age. Some, however, are much troubled with rheumatic complaints; and fevers frequently prevail, and are often fatal.

Proprietors, Agriculture, &c.——A fourth part of the parish belongs to one great proprietor, and another has a considerable share of it. The rest is the property of about 100 smaller heritors, feuers, or portioners; many of whom cultivate their own lands.——Of late years, the farmers make use of a good deal of lime, which they chiefly bring from the parish of Cumbernauld, and some from the parish of Dunipace.

—Oats

—Oats are the grain uſually ſown, with ſome bear and peaſe, but no wheat. A good many potatoes, a quantity of flax, and ſome clover and rye-graſs, are alſo raiſed.

Population.——The population of the pariſh of Denny, in 1755, as returned to Dr Webſter, was 1392 ſouls. The number is now reckoned about 1400. There are, at an average, 60 births, 20 burials, and more than 12 marriages each year.

Church, &c.—The Crown is patron.——The ſtipend is 80 bolls in meal, and L. 38 ſterling, in money. The church, manſe, and offices, are not in good repair.—After the Seceſſion began, more than one half of the inhabitants, at that time, became Seceders of the Antiburgher perſuaſion; and they have had, for upwards of 40 years, a meeting-houſe, at Loan-head, about 2 miles ſouth from Denny. More than a third part of the people are ſtill Seceders, of one denomination or another. A few are Cameronians. There are no Papiſts nor Epiſcopalians.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There are no begging poor, belonging to the pariſh, but there are a number of houſe-keepers in indigent circumſtances, who receive occaſional ſupplies from the collections, made at the church-doors, on Sunday.—The men are almoſt all engaged in huſbandry, and the women generally in ſpinning.——A number of boys and girls are employed at a print-field, and cotton manufactory, in the neighbouring pariſh of Dunipace. A large tract of land here, is called Temple-Denny, which formerly belonged, it is ſaid, to the Knights Templars, ſo famous for their cruſades againſt the Saracens.——The roads, through this diſtrict, in general, are in good repair.—There is abundance of ſtone for building;

building; and coals are got in quantities, ſufficient not only to ſupply the inhabitants, but alſo a good part of the neighbourhood.——The Carron, which divides this pariſh from that of Dunipace, furniſhes us with ſome trout.—The great canal, between the Forth and the Clyde, which runs along the ſouthern part of the pariſh, is alſo, in many reſpects, of great benefit to the people.

NUMBER XXXVIII.

PARISH OF BURNTISLAND.

(COUNTY OF FIFE.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES WEMYSS.

Name, Situation, &c.

IT is difficult to aſcertain the origin of the name. The traditional ſtory is, that it aroſe from the burning of a few fiſhermen's huts, upon a ſmall iſland on the weſt ſide of the harbour, which induced them to take up their reſidence, where the town now ſtands. Originally, however, the pariſh was deſigned Kinghorn-weſter. It is ſituated in the county of Fife, on the firth of Forth, north and by weſt, from Leith, about 6 miles It is in the preſbytery of Kirkaldy, the ſynod and county of Fife. From eaſt to weſt it may extend about 3 miles, and nearly as far from ſouth to north.

Town and Climate.—The town of Burntiſland is pleaſantly ſituated, upon a peninſula, ſurrounded by hills to the north, in the form of an amphitheatre. They lie at the diſtance of about half a mile, and happily occaſion much warmth and ſhelter. The climate is very healthful. The air, dry and clear, rather ſharp. Many of the inhabitants live to a good old age. They enjoy the beneſit of fine dry walks of great extent, and

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can go abroad at all ſeaſons, when it is fair. To thoſe who are fond of the healthful and manly diverſion of the golf, there is adjoining, one of the fineſt pieces of links, of its ſize, in Scotland. A great part of it is like velvet, with all the variety of hazards, neceſſary to employ the different clubs, uſed by the niceſt players. A golfing club was inſtituted lately, by the gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood.

Bruntiſland was conſtituted a royal burgh, by King James VI. The government of it it veſted in 21 perſons, of whom 14 are termed Guild-counſellors, conſiſting of merchants tradeſmen, ſkippers, ſeamen, and land labourers; of whom 3 are choſen yearly at Michaelmas, by the old and new council, to be bailies; the other 7 are trades-counſellors, being one of each trade. There is alſo a provoſt choſen yearly at Michaelmas. If he is a nobleman, he is a ſupernumerary; but if a burgher, he is included in the above number.

It appears, at ſome former period to have been fortified. On the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the harbour, part of the walls of a fort is ſtill ſtanding entire. And on the top of a ſmall hill, immediately to the north of the town, there are to be ſeen, the remains of a trench. It is alſo ſaid, that when Cromwell had an army in this country, it held out againſt him, till he he was obliged to enter into a compromiſe, with the inhabitants, on certain conditions: part of which were, that he ſhould repair the ſtreets and the harbour. In conſequence of this, the quays, as they preſently ſtand, were built by him, and the ſtreets have never been mended ſince, which their preſent ſtate too clearly proves. There is, however, every reaſon to hope, that they will ſoon be put into better condition, as the gentlemen of the county have lately propoſed, to make the public ferry from Burntiſland to Leith, or rather to Newhaven, where it is intended, to build a pier, in order to ſecure a paſſage for travellers, at any time of tide.

Trade

Trade.—Before the union, the trade of this place ſeems to have been very conſiderable. A number of ſhips belonged to it. Large quantities of malt were made, and exported to England, and the north, which yielded great profits. Many of the ſhipmaſters, and inhabitants appear to have been wealthy. But ſince that period, little buſineſs of any kind has been done, till within theſe few years, when trade has again begun to revive a little. Some branches of manufactures have been eſtabliſhed. There is, at preſent, a ſugar houſe, belonging to a Glaſgow company, in a very thriving condition; and a vitriol work, upon a ſmall ſcale, but, having lately become the property of ſome gentlemen of much induſtry and ſpirit, it is to be extended, and will moſt likely do well.——An attempt was alſo recently made, to eſtabliſh a ſilk manufactory. This, however, did not anſwer the wiſhes of the projectors; which, perhaps, was more owing to the want of capital, and ſome other cauſes, than to the badneſs of the trade, or any thing unfavourable in the ſituation of the place. Ship-building is carried on by a few hands, and might be increaſed to any extent.—It is much to be regretted, that manufactures are not eſtabliſhed here. Indeed, it is rather ſurpriſing they have not, as the town is doubtleſs equally, if not more, favourable, for theſe, than many others on the coaſt of Fife, where they are carried on to a great extent. No place can be better ſituated for export and import; houſes are low rented; fuel is reaſonable; coals may be had both by ſea and land; 18 ſtone, heavy weight, from 1s. to 1s 3d. Many hands could eaſily be had, from among the young and the poor, particularly for the cotton branch, who are, in a great meaſure, loſt, for want of employment.—And though the water in the town is moſtly hard, yet there are ſome wells of it ſoft; and, in the neighbourhood, there is a conſiderable run of ſoft water, with many copious ſprings, along the foot of the hills, by which bleaching might be carri-

ed on. Beſides, the manufacturers will now have the benefit of good roads, and carriers to all parts of the country.

The Harbour.—What next merits particular notice, in this place, is, the harbour, which certainly is one of the beſt in Scotland. By way of excellence it is called, in ſome of the town's charters, *Portus Gratiæ* and *Portus Salutis*. It is here, that ſhips generally take ſhelter, when driven up by ſtorms, and hard gales of eaſterly wind. It is eaſily entered, and affords the greateſt ſafety, let the wind blow from any quarter. It is very capacious, and of great depth of water. The Champion frigate came lately in, with all her ſtores, and got as conveniently cleaned, as in a dock. Much improvement might ſtill be made upon it. Were the quays extended, (which could eaſily be done at no great expence) ſmall ſhips could come in, and go out, at any time of tide. In the opinion of profeſſional men, docks ought to be eſtabliſhed here, capable of receiving the largeſt ſhips of war. This is ſurely an object, well deſerving the attention of government. It might be done at a ſmall expence. And, in the event of our ever being at war, with our northern neighbours, would be a vaſt ſaving and conveniency; as the ſhips that happened to want cleaning and repair, would not need to return to England for that purpoſe; which they muſt always do at preſent. Even for the ſhips that are ſtationed in this Firth, and ſuch as may occaſionally come into it, an eſtabliſhment of this kind would be a great ſaving of time and money. Here too, houſes and yards for the King's ſtores might be had, much more conveniently, and at far leſs expence, than at Leith. They could be had at the very entrance of the harbour, or along the quays. And as the houſes would be cheap, and the acceſs eaſy, an annual ſaving of ſome hundreds of pounds might reaſonably be expected. There is another thing, reſpecting this harbour, which deſerves

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to be pointed out to Government, and may at leaſt merit their conſideration. It is this; that it might be made one of the ſafeſt and moſt convenient *watering-places* poſſible, for his Majeſty's ſhips in this Firth. At no great expence, a run of the fineſt water might be introduced, by a pipe, and carried to any of the quays, thought moſt proper, where the king's boats might receive it, without the leaſt trouble or danger. This may be thought the more worthy of notice, as, it is well known, that the preſent mode of watering the King's ſhips, either by going to Leith, or Harly burn, a place on the north ſhore, about a mile to the weſtward of Burntiſland, is often attended with danger, and ſometimes with loſs. And, it is to be hoped, it would be no ſmall inducement to adopt this plan, were it to be properly ſtated to Government, that the ſame pipe, that ſupplied his Majeſty's ſhips, could eaſily furniſh the town of Burntiſland, with ſoft water, of which it ſtands much in need. It would be juſt, or at leaſt, it would be generous, to accommodate a place, at preſent unable to help itſelf; a place, eſpecially, that, upon every occaſion, has furniſhed a very large proportion of brave men, for the navy; and, where many of the lame, and the wounded, and many of the widows and the fatherleſs, of thoſe who have ſuffered in the ſervice of their country, now reſide.

It is ſurpriſing, that the advantages of this harbour, ſhould have ſo long been overlooked by the public; and no leſs ſo, that, in the preſent enterpriſing mercantile age, they have not been laid hold of, and improven. It is doubtleſs equal, if not preferable to any in Scotland, for dry docks. Its vicinity to Edinburgh, the capital of the kingdom, and its ready acceſs, by ſea, to every quarter of the globe, certainly renders it eligible for every ſort of mercantile purſuit.

Shores.—To the weſtward of the town, towards Aberdour, the

the ſhore is all rocky; and, from a quarter of a mile eaſtward, it is all ſandy, till it joins the Pettycur harbour, near Kinghorn. Oppoſite this ſandy beach, the ſea has made great incroachments, within theſe hundred years, and ſtill continues to gain ground. Near the town, however, the rocks are a perfect defence. From theſe rocks, there is as much ſea weed cut, every two years, as produces about 12 or 15 ton of kelp. After gales of eaſterly and ſoutherly winds, there frequently come on ſhore, large quantities of tangles and ſea weeds, which are uſed as manure, and anſwer well for a ſeaſon.

It might be mentioned here, how beneficial the rocks and ſhores are to the inhabitants of this place, particularly the poor, from the large quantities of ſhell-fiſh, that may be gathered, of one kind or another, at all ſeaſons; eſpecially cockles, which abound in the extenſive ſands between Burntiſland and Kinghorn. A boy or girl may gather to the value, perhaps, of 3d. or 4d. in a few hours. Excellent oyſters are alſo to be had near the town. The bed belongs partly to the borough, and partly to the Earl of Morton.

Hills.—The moſt remarkable hill, is that which lies about half a mile north of the town. It is very ſteep, and elevated between 500 and 600 feet above the level of the ſea. It yields moſt excellent paſture in any ſeaſon; is well watered and ſheltered, and withal, very extenſive. It would make one of the fineſt incloſures in Scotland, particularly for ſheep. From its appearance, one would almoſt be induced to believe, it had undergone ſome violent commotion, and that the rocks on each end were incruſted with ſome thing like volcanic matter.

In the ſame line, to the eaſtward, there is another very high hill, called Dunearn, remarkable for having a ſmall loch, or lake,

lake, upon its top, which never dries in any ſeaſon. On the north ſide it is very ſteep and rugged;—the appearance frightful, from the projection of the ſtones, and the immenſe number that have tumbled down. The ſtones, of which this hill is compoſed, ſeem to be of the Baſaltic kind. They are moſtly of a regular figure, ſtand upon end, and are generally from 2 to 4 feet long: All this makes it probable, that it has once been the ſeat of a volcano, and the loch might be the crater.———There is alſo, on the very ſummit of this hill, a flat piece of ground, ſurrounded with an immenſe number of looſe ſtones, called Agricola's camp, or garriſon. The ſtones appear once to have been built, but not with mortar, or cement of any kind. It is highly probable this tradition is true:—If we may believe Tacitus, it is certain, that the Romans explored the north coaſt of the Forth with their ſhips. It is no leſs ſo, that ſome of the legions were garriſoned during the winter, near the coaſt. Dunearn hill, from its ſituation, would moſt naturally invite them, to take up their reſidence on it. Beſides, the country from this, all the way to Benartie-hill, near the Lommonds, exactly anſwers the deſcription which that hiſtorian gives of it, in his account of the Roman expedition on the north of Bodotria, i. e. Forth. It was full, he ſays, of hills, rocks, marſhes, woods, and lakes.———A little way to the north-eaſt, is the hill of Orrock, of conſiderable extent, but not ſo ſteep as the two former. It affords alſo excellent paſture. It is ſaid diamonds have been found on it, and that it produces capillary herbs. There is alſo a vitriolic ſpring upon it.———Next to Orrock is the farm of Babie; moſt of which is hilly and high ground, but yields good crops, both of corn and graſs. On theſe hills of Orrock and Babie, ſeveral barrows or tumuli are to be ſeen, but too large to be eaſily removed. Some of them have, however, been

been dug up, and diſcovered the bones of thoſe antient warriors over whom, they had been raiſed.

With reſpect to the hills above mentioned, it may be obſerved, that they are peculiarly adapted for ſheep; being verdant the greateſt part of the year. The proprietors turn them to good account, by the rearing and feeding of black cattle; but doubtleſs, turning them into ſheep walks, would render them ſtill more beneficial to themſelves, and uſeful to the country. The Bin moſtly belongs to Roger Ayton, Eſq. of Inch-dairny; Dunearn to Dr Charles Stuart of Edinburgh; Orrock to the Earl of Morton; and Babie to William Ferguſon, Eſq, of Raith.

Soil.——Between the hills and the ſea, the ſoil is moſtly very rich, and when properly cultivated, produces excellent crops. The rent is generally from 4 to 4½ bolls of barley, or from L. 3 to L. 3 : 3 an acre. Wheat, barley, and beans, are moſt cultivated. The grain is of the beſt quality, from the warmneſs of the climate, owing to the ſurrounding hills. The grounds, in the higher part of the pariſh, are of a much inferior value, as may be ſuppoſed, from the lightneſs of the ſoil, and their more elevated ſituation: Notwithſtanding which, they bring a good rent to the proprietor. Few of the tenants have regular tacks, and extenſive farms.——They, in general, follow the new mode of farming.—The burdenſome and injurious effects, of the feudal, ſyſtem are totally aboliſhed among them.

Eccleſiaſtical State of the Pariſh.——The place of worſhip for the pariſh, was formerly, about half a mile north of the town. The remains of it are ſtill to be ſeen, with the old manſe, and burial yard. It evidently appears to have been originally a Popiſh chapel, but when built, is not known.

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In 1592, the pariſh growing more numerous, and, it may be ſuppoſed, the inhabitants of the town, more wealthy, they built a new church within the borough, aſking nothing from the heritors but their conſent. And, at the ſame time, as an inducement, granted them proper ſeats, with certain privileges, taking the whole burden of building and repairing upon themſelves. It is a ſtately ſquare ſtructure, with a pavilion roof; and, with a little more finiſhing, would be a moſt handſome place of worſhip. That it is capacious, will appear from a fact well known in this place, that it once held within its walls, between 3000 and 4000 Heſſians, that were lying encamped near the town, in the year 1746.——There is alſo a meeting-houſe for the Antiburgher Seceders.

The king is patron.——The ſtipend conſiſts of 2 chalders of barley, 2 of oats; L. 60 in money, with a manſe and glebe; and L. 5 for communion elements. An augmentation was obtained within theſe 20 years. The free teind is ſtill very conſiderable.

Population.——The number of ſouls, in the pariſh, may be about 1100. In the report made to Dr Webſter, An. 1755, they are called 1390. The inhabitants of the borough are often ſhifting. No regiſter of burials has ever been kept.

State of the Poor.——The poor, within the borough, are rather numerous. None of them, however, beg. There being no funds, they are ſupplied by weekly, and extraordinary collections at the church-doors. Such of them, as have their names put on, what is called, the poors roll, get from 6d. to 1s a week. Their ſupport muſt be ſmall, conſidering from whence it ariſes. Moſt of the heritors are non-reſidenters, which makes the burden fall heavy upon ſuch as are any way able, or rather well diſpoſed, to relieve the neceſſities of the poor. Such a

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general assessment should certainly take place in this, and in every other parish, as would affect the landlord and his tenant, in some just proportion, according to their ability, whether inclined to be charitable or not, and whether of the established church or dissenters: and, till this takes place, there is little doubt, but that both the uncharitable and the Seceder, will take but small share in the support of the poor.

Quarries.—There is a very fine quarry of free stone, a small distance north from the town, on the Grange estate. Most of the new buildings along the coast, to a considerable distance, are furnished with hewn work from that quarry. About a mile to the eastward, and also to the westward, there are inexhaustible quarries of lime stone, which is sent off in great quantities to the works at Carron, and other places. There is also upon the shore, near the town, excellent quarries of hard stone, which is used for oven soles, and chimney grates; as they endure the greatest heat, and will last for many years.—There is also, on the estate of Grange, a sort of marble, which has been wrought, and takes a very fine polish.

Coal.—At one period, it is certain, coal has been wrought in this parish; but how, or on what account it was given up, is not now known. Of late, some attempts have been made, by Mr Wemyss of Cuttlehill and others, to find coal; but these have been so feeble, as by no means to be reckoned a sufficient trial. But it is to be hoped, the proprietors will be induced to renew their attempts, with more spirit, and success.

Miscellaneous Observations.—There are 2 mills close to the town, employed in making flour, meal, and barley. One of them is erected *upon the sea*, which comes into a bay, on the north side of the estate of Rossend. At an average it works the year

year round, about 14 hours each day. On the ſame water, other profitable works might be erected.——There is alſo a diſtillery in the neighbourhood of the town, in high repute for making good whiſky. But however profitable this, and other works of the ſame kind, may be, to the manufacturer, the landlord, and the farmer, there can be little doubt of their being moſt pernicious to the health, the morals, and the induſtry of the people at large.—There are, at preſent 3 large ſtout boats, with a ſmall one, that goes at half tide. They croſs every day, when paſſengers caſt up. And when once the quays are extended, as now reſolved on, there will be paſſage at all times, wind and weather ſerving.———It is alſo proper to mention, that about 5 years ago, an ingenious foreign gentleman, in his reſearches about this country, diſcovered in this pariſh, a ſort of mould, (which appears to be rocks reduced by time to earth); of which he afterwards ſent to France two ſhip loads. He was very tenacious of making any diſcoveries reſpecting its quality.—It is now known, however, that the court of France prohibited the importation of it. It is thought this ſtuff was uſed either in the porcelain manufactory, or for making crucibles. The ſhips were loaded from the earth, on the top of a ſmall hill, immediately to the north of the town.

NUMBER XXXIX.

PARISH OF SELKIRK.

(COUNTIES OF SELKIRK AND TEVIOTDALE.)

By the Rev. MR. THOMAS ROBERTSON.

Minister of that Parish.

Name, Antient State, &c.

THE antient name of this parish is derived from the Celtic. *Scheleckgrech* *, (since corrupted into Selkirk,) signifies, in that language, the kirk in the wood, or forest; expressing thus, in one word, the situation of the place itself, and the state of the surrounding country.—It is probable, that all the neighbouriug districts were formerly one continued forest. It is certain, that the banks of the rivers, by which the country is so happily intersected, were once adorned with woods; amidst which, those plaintive airs were produced, the natural simplicity of which, are the pride of Scotland, and the admiration of strangers.—The forest is now reduced to a state of nakedness. But exertions are now making to remedy this evil, and the muses, it is probable, will be again induced to revisit

* See Sir James Dalrymple's antiquities, p. 403.

reviſit their native groves, which are preparing for their reception *.

To reſtore this country, however, to its former ſtate of reſpectability, as well as beauty, it muſt be indebted to the proprietors of the ſoil, for replacing not only the woods, but the inhabitants, which the impolitic practice of adding farm to farm, and the fatal operation of poors-rates, have compelled to leave their native home †. It is painful to ſee (as in this pariſh) one perſon rent a property, on which one hundred inhabitants were reared to the ſtate, and found a comfortable ſubſiſtance. It adds to the bleakneſs of the ſcene, to ſee a few ſhepherds ſtrolling over the face of a country, which formerly, was the nurſe of heroes, who were juſtly accounted the bulwark of their native ſoil, being ever ready to brave danger and death in its defence. Of this we have a memorable proof, in the pathetic lamentations of their wives and daughters, for the diſaſter of the field of Flowden, " where their brave for-" reſters were a' wed away."

Here too, the inhabitants of the town of Selkirk who breathed the manly ſpirit of real freemen, juſtly merit parti-

* The Landholders, in general, are making conſiderable plantations; and, it is ſaid, the Duke of Buccleugh, in particular, means to reſerve, in all his future leaſes, the banks of the rivers, for planting. If planted with the Swediſh maple, the leaves would furniſh food in conſiderable quantities, for their ſheep, during the winter ſeaſon.

† The only additional circumſtance tending to the depopulation of this part of the country, is, the diſſipation of the lower ranks, which makes them afraid of marriage, and deſirous of enjoying the pleaſures, without the burdens of matrimony.

cular attention. Of 100 citizens, who followed the fortune of James IV. on the plains of Flowden, a few returned, loaded with the ſpoils taken from the enemy. Some of theſe trophies ſtill ſurvive the ruſt of time, and the effects of negligence *. The deſperate valour of the citizens of Selkirk, which, on that fatal day, was eminently conſpicuous to both armies, produced very oppoſite effects. The implacable reſentment of the Engliſh reduce their defenceleſs town to aſhes, whilſt their grateful ſovereign (James V.) ſhewed his ſenſe of their valour, by a grant of an extenſive portion of his foreſt, the trees for rebuilding their houſes†, and the property, as the reward of their heroiſm ‡.

Rivers.

* A ſtandard, the appearance of which beſpeaks its antiquity, is ſtill carried annually, (on the day of riding their Common), before the Corporation of weavers, by a member of which, it was taken from the Engliſh, in the field of Flowden.—It may be added, that the ſword of William Brydon, the town clerk, who led the citizens to the battle, (and who is ſaid to have been knighted for his valour), is ſtill in the poſſeſſion of John Brydon, a citizen of Selkirk, his lineal diſcendant.

† Some have very falſely attributed to this event, that ſong,

"Up with the ſouters of Selkirk, and down with the Earl of Hume."

There was no Earl of Hume at that time, nor was this ſong compoſed till long after. It aroſe from a bett betwixt the Philiphaugh and Hume families; the ſouters (or ſhoemakers) of Selkirk againſt the men of Hume, at a match of football, in which the ſouters of Selkirk completely gained, and afterwards perpetuated, their victory in that ſong.

‡ The original grant was of 1000 acres, but of this the ſurround-

ing

Rivers. ——The rivers, Etterick and Yarrow, unite a little above, and terminate in the Tweed, about a mile and a half below, Selkirk. For 5 miles above its junction with the Etterick, the Tweed is ſtill adorned with woods, and leads the pleaſed imagination to contemplate, what this country muſt have been, in former times. The Yarrow, for about 5 miles above its junction with Etterick, exhibits nature in a bold and ſtriking aſpect. Its native woods ſtill remain, through which, the ſtream has cut its turbid courſe, deeply ingulphed amidſt rugged rocks. Here, certainly in a flood, ſtood the deſcriptive Thomſon when he ſaw it,

" Work and boil, and foam and thunder thro'."

Newark-Caſtle. ——Upon a peninſula, cut out by the ſurrounding ſtream, in the middle of this fantaſtically wild ſcene of grandeur and beauty, ſtands the caſtle of Newark, whoſe only inhabitants now are the mopping owl, and chattering daw. ——This is ſuppoſed by many, to be the birth place of Mary Scot, the flower of Yarrow; but, ſhe was deſcended from the Dryhope, and married into the Harden family. Her daughter was married to a predeceſſor of the preſent Sir Francis Elliot, of Stobbs, and of the late Lord Heathfield*.

Pown

ing heritors have wreſted from the town of Selkirk, much more than the half, by a claim founded upon the right of paſturage. The town ſtill draws a revenue of about L. 250 *per annum*, from the remainder.

* There is a circumſtance, in their contract of marriage, that merits attention, as it ſtrongly marks the predatory ſpirit of the times. The father-in-law agrees to keep his daughter, for ſome time after the marriage

Town.——The town of Selkirk is pleaſantly ſituated on a riſing ground, and enjoys an extenſive proſpect, in all directions, eſpecially up and down the river Etterick. The ſoil around it, is dry, and the harveſt early. From its open ſituation, and almoſt equal diſtance from both ſeas, it is leſs rainy than any other part of this country. By a meaſure of rain kept accurately for ten years, and compared with one kept at Hawkhill, in the neighbourhood of Leith, for the ſame time, Selkirk was found to exceed only one half inch yearly *.—— There is no place in this country ſo free from epidemical diſeaſes; and were the citizens equally ſupplied with the other comforts of life, as with wholeſome air, no town in Scotland would produce a greater number of aged inhabitants. There a good many from 70 to 80, 3 at and above 90, and one died lately at 106.

That Selklrk, though diſtant from coal, is happily ſituated for carrying on the woolen trade, Hawick on the one hand, and Gallaſhiels on the other, clearly demonſtrate. But it is a royal burgh, and as ſuch, ſuffers in all its beſt intereſts, and ſocial intercourſe. To acquire political power, and not commercial property, is the great object of the principal citizens. There is, however, one exception, a conſiderable incle manufactory being very ſucceſsfully caried on, by Baillie William Roger,

marriage, for which the ſon-in-law binds himſelf to give him the profits of the firſt Michaelmas moon.

* By a regular attention to the pluviameter, barometer and Fahrenheit's thermometer, for ten years, the mean quantity of rain yearly is 31½ inches. The medium heighth of the barometer 29$\frac{3}{10}$. The medium of heat 43 degrees. Nor did the medium of heat differ one degree during theſe ten years.

Roger, (which regularly employs 50 hands,) and by whoſe influence, a ſtocking manufactory is attempted on a ſmall ſcale. A tannage, too, in the neighbourhood, is the property of one of the inhabitants.

The burgh lands of Selkirk are worth more than L. 1000 *per annum*, and are divided into a great number of ſmall properties. This circumſtance, alſo, tends to damp that ſpirit for manufactures and commerce, by which the inhabitants of towns are in general diſtinguiſhed. Such is the rage of the citizens to become lairds, that all their wealth is laid out in purchaſing acres or half acres, on which many of them, and the wretched beaſts that till them, are half ſtarved. As all the burgh lands, are, in the occupancy of the proprietors, there is none to be rented. A few ſpots have been got for nurſeries, at L. 3. per acre.——The burgh lands ſell from L. 40 to L. 70 per acre, Engliſh meaſure.

State of Agriculture, and of Sheep Farming.—The lands in this pariſh are generally hilly, and more adapted to paſture than tillage; but moſt of the farms have a large portion of low ground, lying towards, and along the ſides of the rivers. They have not hitherto been managed to that advantage of which they are very capable. If you aſk the farmers, why they plough the faces of their hills, by which they hurt their ſheep walk, and derive not from their miſerable returns, an equivalent for ſeed and labour? If you aſk them why they cut their benty paſtures, the beſt ſupport of their ſheep in the winter froſts? they anſwer, Becauſe they cannot ſupport their black cattle in winter without theſe aids, as they can neither raiſe hay nor turnips. How eaſily might this evil be remedied, and the value of their farms encreaſed, by drawing a ſtone dyke along their low grounds, and confining the farmer to a proper management

management of theſe, as the only arable part of his farm. For example, one-fourth oats, one-fourth turnips, potatoes, &c. one-fourth barley, and one-fourth hay. This rotation will afford every farmer in this pariſh, abundant ſupport for his family, his flocks, and his cattle, however ſevere the winter may be. From what calamities would not this preſerve them; we ſhould not then ſee them when ſtorms ariſe, driving their ſtarved flocks to the leſs ſnowy hills of Annandale; nor purchaſing hay at an extravagant price, and carrying it through almoſt impaſſable roads to their flocks, when their ſtomachs are too weak to receive or digeſt it. The management of flocks begins to be better underſtood, and the farmers, by putting fewer upon the ſame ground, have encreaſed the ſize of their ſheep, leſſened the diſeaſes to which they are liable, and improved the quantity and quality of the wool, more than by all the other means, hitherto diſcovered.

To two diſeaſes, of a very ſerious nature, the flocks here are ſtill expoſed. The one, a fever, to which the hogs or ſheep of the firſt year are ſo liable in winter, and eſpecially in variable weather, with intermitting froſts, that the farmer reckons himſelf fortunate, if he loſes only three of each ſcore in his hirſle. This diſeaſe, (the braxy, as ſome call it), has been examined, and is found to ariſe from the withered graſs on which the animal then feeds, and the want either of liquid, or muſcular motion in the ſtomach to diſſolve it. The conſequence is, that the dry and unconcocted food enters the inteſtines in an impervious ſtate; the obſtructions excite an inflammation, a fever and mortification, of which the animal dies. A remedy, has, with ſucceſs, been attempted. Turnips, from their purgative nature, have been found capable, not only of preventing, but of curing the diſeaſe. The tops of

firſt

firs, however, from their reſinous nature, (if ſuch plantations are weeding) will be found ſtill more effectual*.

The other diſeaſe, known only within theſe 50 years, is of a much more alarming nature, as it affects not only our whole flocks, but the ſhepherds and their dogs. It is a ſpecies of tick, with which our paſtures ſwarm. They begin to appear about the end of March, and retire about the middle of Auguſt. Unlike to the other animals of the blood-ſucking tribe, which fall off when full, theſe ſeldom let go the hold, till, if their number is ſufficient, they drain the whole blood in the body of their ſuffering victim. Numbers of ſheep, of all ages, but eſpecially the young, die of this diſeaſe. The ſheep too, that ſurvive it, peſtered with theſe vermin, feed not to the condition or value they otherwiſe would. Burning the benty paſtures where they breed in the ſpring, is found to leſſen the evil; but no means are yet diſcovered by which it can be eradicated. An experiment was tried, laſt year, by a farmer in this pariſh, who anointed the bare part of the thigh of ſix of the moſt diſeaſed lambs in his flock with mercurial ointment†; and the ſhepherd, who was to obſerve the conſequence, declared, that the following day he carefully examined them, and found not a ſingle tick upon one of them: and being further deſired to watch if they remained clean, declared they did.—Should this remedy prove effectual, it will coſt only a halfpenny per ſheep *.

It is an univerſal practice in this place, to ſalve, or ſmear

* It is probable that ſalt would anſwer the ſame purpoſe.

† A mercurial preparation, or one made up with arſenic, or even any decoction made from tobacco, or, the common broom, will kill theſe vermin when on the ſkin. In the paſture, liming, or watering, will anſwer the purpoſe effectually.

the ſheep with a compoſition of butter or tar, which, though it ſpoils the colour, yet is ſaid to improve the quality, and to increaſe the quantity of the wool. It ſaves the flocks alſo, from the influence of the winter rains, from ſcab and vermin of every kind, except the tick.

The quantity of tar, uſed in ſmearing the ſheep, varies according to the height of the ſheep walk, and the want of ſhelter. In the low parts of the country, they do not uſe one half of the quantity, that is neceſſary in the high lands; which is from 1½ to 3 lb. of butter to each Scots pint of tar.

The farms here are never valued according to the quantity of acres, but the quantity of ſheep they will maintain; and the paſture of theſe, according to their ſize, and the ſoundneſs of the ground, is valued at from 1s 6d. to 3s. per head.——The grounds on the eaſt ſide of the Etterick are all green, and may be called downs, rather than hills; thoſe betwixt Etterick and Tweed are heathy and high; the Peat-law, and Three Brethren, in particular, two of theſe hills, are, the firſt 1964, and the laſt 1978 feet above the level of the ſea, and from 1604 to 1618 above the bed of the river at Selkirk.

Markets—This place is well ſupplied with excellent lamb after the 20th of May, and high-flavoured mutton, from the 20th of June to Martinmas; and, if the winter is mild, to Chriſtmas. The veal is not good, but the farmers, who are in the habit of buying Highland cattle, and feeding them for a year, ſupply the market with very fine ſmall beeves, and make a very good rent, as they buy from L. 3: 10, to L. 4, and ſell from L. 6: 10 to L. 7.——A few of the farms that are incloſed, have raiſed as fine turnips, and exhibit as good a breed of cattle, as are to be met with any where. One farmer, this ſeaſon, fed his 3 year olds, from 50 to 60 ſtone,

and

and from 3 to 6 ſtone of tallow, and ſold them from L. 16 to L. 17.

General State.—The number of ſheep in this pariſh are computed to be 22000: horſes, 265, of which two thirds are farm horſes; black cattle, 735. Valued rent, L. 15826 Scots. Real rental, L. 4223 ſterling. Country heritors, 17; burgage heritors, 91; farmers, 26. The ſtipend 100 guineas, *per annum*, with a manſe and a glebe. The Duke of Roxburgh is patron.———The pariſh, excluſive of the lands of Todridge, which are detached, and at a conſiderable diſtance, may be about 10 miles ſquare.

Population.—The number of examinable perſons, about 50 years ago, is ſaid to have been 1700. The number of ſouls, as reported to Dr Webſter, for the year 1755, was 1793. By an exact ſurvey, lately made, the number of all ages, now exiſting, amounts to nearly 700, in the country, and 1000 in the burgh *. There is in Selkirk, a meeting of Burgher Seceders, the only one in the country. What their number may be in Selkirk pariſh is not accurately known; but it cannot be conſiderable. There are no Roman catholics. The medium number of births, deaths, and marriages, for the laſt 3 years, were calculated, and found to be, births, 43; deaths, 35; marriages, 19, annually.

The Poor.—Poors-rates have long been eſtabliſhed here, to the great prejudice of induſtry and virtue, among the lower claſs of citizens. "The pariſh is bound to ſupport us," is their

* Any decreaſe of population is entirely in the country part of the pariſh, as the numbers in the burgh, have, for more than a century, been nearly the ſame.

their apology for diſſipation, through every period of life.—The young men receive, *per annum*, from L. 6 to L. 8 of wages, and the young women, from L. 3 : 10 to L. 4 : 10, with their maintenance. Labourers, 1s in ſummer, 1s 2d. in harveſt, and 10d in winter, per day. Women from 6d. to 8d. in ſummer, and 1s in harveſt. This, however, is inadequate to their expences, when they are in health, and makes them a conſtant burden upon the public, whenever any misfortune happens to them. Such a mode of living is but a miſerable preparation for the cares of matrimony, and the burden of a family. In that ſtate, the ruſtic beau ſinks into a peeviſh and complaining churl. The gaily attired ſhepherdeſs becomes a prey to ſtupid inſenſibility and ſloth, equally indifferent about her perſon and her houſehold affairs; and the virtue of both, if it hath withſtood the attacks of youthful diſſipation, is again ſubjected to the dangers, which ariſe from the reſtleſs calls of pinching poverty, and the cries of ſtarving infants.—The extinction of ſmall farms, which has barred their ambition, and damped any ſpirit of oeconomy, is here attended with fatal effects; whilſt their unfortunate dependance upon the poors funds, makes them leſs diſpoſed to induſtrious exertion. This, too, diſſolves the ties of natural affection, while it multiplies the number, and increaſes the neceſſities of the poor. If the children ſuffer from the want of economy and virtue in their parents, the parents are abundantly repaid by the neglect of their children, when bending under the double load of infirmity and indigence. They will tell you, without a bluſh, that the pariſh is better able to ſupport their aged parents, than they are; while you will ſee them, at the ſame time, in the prime of life, unclogged with families, indulging themſelves in every ſpecies of debauchery common to that rank of life. But the miſchief ends not with them; many who fill higher ſtations, and whoſe circumſtances are not

only

only eaſy but affluent, make their contributing to the poors funds an excuſe for throwing their near relations a burden upon the public. While the feelings of nature are thus ſtifled, and its laws are thus tranſgreſſed, it were devoutly to be wiſhed, that the laws reſpecting the poor, productive of ſo many baneful conſequences, would provide this equitable antidote: "that all who are in circumſtances, and who, by law, would ſucceed to the property of any one, were they rich, ſhould be obliged to maintain them when poor." The public, as it is only the laſt heir, ought to be only the laſt reſort, of thoſe who have none elſe to ſupport them. From theſe obſervations, it would appear, that poors-rates, without a ſyſtem of management not yet practiſed in the country pariſhes, is unfriendly to the cauſe of virtue in general, and to the beſt intereſts of thoſe they are intended to ſerve.——It is an undoubted fact, that, when people are taught to depend upon any means of ſupport, which flow not from their own laudable induſtry and economy, the meanneſs of the thought degrades every virtue, and opens the door to every vice, that can debaſe the ſoul. Their only dependance ought to be upon their own labour and exertions, which, when joined to economy, will always furniſh them with the means of a decent maintainance. Promoting their induſtry is the beſt proviſion that can be made for them. Premiums are chearfully given for the encouragement of commerce: Might not the ſame means be employed, for promoting virtue and induſtry in humble life? A very ſmall ſum, properly laid out for that purpoſe, would do more good, than all that is beſtowed on the preſent ſyſtem. With what honourable pride would not the poor man's heart ſwell, and with what renewed vigour and alacrity, would he not diſcharge the duties of his ſtation, when he felt his virtues publicly regarded, and rewarded by his fellow citizens? With what ſhame and remorſe, would not the profligate wretch endeavour to conceal

conceal his miſery, deſpiſed and condemned by thoſe among whom he lived, and without any juſt claim to their aſſiſtance? Even during the infirmities of age, their ſupport ſhould be a voluntary gift, and not compulſatory; and ſhould depend upon the character they maintained, in their early days, for their honeſty and virtue.

The number of the poor, though gradually increaſing, conſtantly varies. There were, upon the roll of laſt year, in the country part of the pariſh, 20; and the annual ſum provided for their relief, was L. 54:12. In the burgh, the number was 22, the ſum provided was L. 60.

The collections, at the church-door, are dedicated to the relief of incidental misfortunes, among thoſe who have no ſhare in the fund above mentioned, or who happen to fall into circumſtances of peculiar diſtreſs, between the meetings of the managers. By theſe means, many are prevented from coming upon the funds, to which, on every occaſion, they diſcover a ſtrong propenſity, and which it is not always eaſy to hinder.

All the money mortified to the poor of this pariſh, is 200 merks, the donation of William Ogilvie, Eſq. of Hartwoodmires; of which, the kirk-ſeſſion are managers.

Scarcity in 1782.——The pariſh produces much more grain, (wheat excepted) than is ſufficient for the ſupport of the inhabitants.——In 1782, however, the crop was very deficient, and the poor were reduced to very great diſtreſs. To encreaſe the poors funds proportionally was a dangerous experiment, and could only extend to ſuch as were upon the roll. To relieve the neceſſities of all the indigent, by donation sin meal or money, was impoſſible. A ſcheme, much more effectual than either, was adopted by the town of Selkirk:—They put L. 50 into the hands of a citizen well acquainted with the ſtate of

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the country, and the victual trade, with power to purchaſe meal, wherever he found it of the beſt quality, and moſt reaſonable, and to retail it at prime coſt, among the pariſhioners. By theſe means all were regularly ſupplied, below the retail price, till that was reduced from 2s 10d. to 2s 2d. per ſtone. By this plan, the town loſt only the intereſt of the L. 50, and 1s per day to their agent, while they did a more eſſential ſervice to the whole inhabitants of the pariſh, than if 100 guineas had been diſtributed amongſt them. Even the poor of other pariſhes, when meal was not elſewhere to be had, were permitted to ſhare in the advantages of this plan.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The rivers, fields, and woods, in the neighbourhood, abound with all the fiſh, game, birds of ſong, of prey, and of the migratory ſpecies, common in the ſouthern parts of Scotland. Among the multitude of ſparrows, bred in the thatched roofs of the houſes in Selkirk, one appeared, ſome years ago, perfectly white. It was more ſlender and more beautiful in its appearance, than the common ſparrows, and, in ſome reſpects, reſembled a canary bird; but was of a purer and more gloſſy white.———There is at Haining-Lin, in the neighbourhood of Selkirk, a ſpring of ſteel water; from which, though it is but weak, the poor of a ſcorbutic or ſchrophulous habit, derive advantage.——— The only foſſil, that merits attention in this place, is, an inexhauſtible fund of ſhell marle. It produces wonderful effects upon light and dry ſoils; but its utility to the country in general, muſt depend upon the diſcretion with which it uſed, and the terms at which it can be purchaſed.—In this pariſh there remain no monuments of antiquity, but ſome military ſtations, and a foſſee perfectly viſible on both ſides of the Yarrow, which was the weſtern defence of Montroſe's camp, before the battle of Philiphaugh. It was probably thrown up,

to

to prevent any ſurprize from the Harehead wood, to which it is very near, and runs almoſt parallel.——Some ſkulls of the urus*, and a Roman ſpear, with which theſe animals were deſtroyed, were found lately, in a moſs, near to Selkirk, and preſented to the ſociety of antiquaries.——One of the moſt diſtinguiſhed characters, which this, or any pariſh in Scotland, has given birth to, in modern times, was Andrew Pringle, Lord Alemoor, whoſe amiable manners, learning, and eloquence, rendered him equally the object of admiration, as the friend, the ſcholar, and the judge. Deſtined by nature, to fill the higheſt departments in the ſtate, with honour to himſelf, and advantage to his country; although his bodily infirmities damped theſe proſpects when full in view, and with-held from the public the great ſervices for which his abilities were formed, yet they robbed him not of gaiety of mind, ſuavity of manners, philanthropy, and public ſpirit, till they laid him, (much lamented by his friends and country), in an untimely grave.

* For the deſcription of this animal, and the honorary rewards conferred on thoſe who diſtinguiſhed themſelves in deſtroying them, ſee Cæſar's Commentaries, lib. vi. chap. 5.

NUMBER XL.

PARISH OF FORTINGAL.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. DUNCAN M'ARA.

Name, Situation, Soil, &c.

FORTINGAL, it is thought, derives its name from a Roman camp, at the weſt end of the diſtrict. A late hiſtorian, and ſome others, have thought, that Agricola fought with the Caledonians on that ſpot; but this does not ſeem probable; as he would have been neceſſarily expoſed to infinite danger, in marching through woods, and numerous defiles, before he could have reached that place. The encampment itſelf, however, might give riſe to the name, as *Feart-nin-gal*, in the Gaelic, ſignifies, the works or exploits of ſtrangers.

To Fortingal, is joined another parochial diſtrict, called Kilchonan. Both lie in the middle of the Grampian hills.—This pariſh, compoſed of theſe two, is the fartheſt to the north-weſt of the county of Perth, and the moſt Highland pariſh in Perthſhire. It lies within the ſynod of Perth and Stirling, and preſbytery of Dunkeld. Its boundaries may be ſeen in Stobie's map of Perthſhire. Its length will be full 37 miles; its mean breadth about 17.———It conſiſts of the following diſtricts; Fortingal, Glenlyon, and Ranoch; be-

ſides an eſtate of 16 ploughs, containing 8 villages, ſituated ſouth of Tay-bridge, 8 miles diſtant from the manſe and church.

The diſtrict of Fortingal, including lands that run in a line with it, which are in the pariſh, is near 5 miles in length. The river Lyon runs through the bottom, which is not above half a mile in breadth; but the hills are in tillage pretty high up. It is a fertile beautiful bottom. The ſoil is dry, light, and rather gravelliſh. Woods and clumps of trees are in abundance, and have a fine effect. There are 26 villages, or little towns in it.

From the weſt point of it, the road leads to Glenlyon;—an exceeding long narrow glen;—in tillage, and inhabited for 28 miles weſtward. The plain, by the ſide of the river, is generally not above a gun-ſhot over. There is a continued ridge of ſome of the higheſt mountains in the kingdom, on both ſides of this glen. Many of the villages have not any ſunſhine, for 3 or 4 months in winter.——The grazings and ſhealings, belonging to the country, extend 8 miles farther weſtward: and there ſome ſhepherds reſide even in winter. The hills are green, almoſt half way up, and afford excellent paſture.——The air, in two-thirds of this country, is ſomewhat chilly, but abundantly dry and healthy. In the braes it is moiſt and cold. The ſoil below, is of the ſame quality with that in Fortingal. The productions of both, however, ripen as early as thoſe of any other part of the county. In the head of the diſtrict, the ſoil is good, but the climate bad.—The crop ſeldom comes to any kind of perfection. There are 28 villages here, all in a line, belonging to the pariſh.

From the eaſtmoſt corner of Fortingal, the road leads to Ranoch, the neareſt village of which, is 11 miles diſtant from this place. This county, from near Tumble bridge, where it begins, is 21 miles in length; the bottom about a

mile in breadth. The grazings, north and north-weſt, extend 7 or 8 miles, ſtill further beyond the inhabited part of the country. It is highly elevated; the air is uncommonly moiſt, damp, and cold. The ſoil, at the bottom of the country, is good, intermixed with moſs and clay, but dirty. The ſoil, on both ſides of the loch, is very indifferent; and, at the head of the country, is exceedingly bad. Mildews often ruin all the crops. There are many large woods of birch, and a pretty extenſive fir wood, which grows naturally, and ſerves all the country round with excellent timber. This is all that remains of that immenſe foreſt of fir, which once covered the muirs in this part of the Highlands. Every where the country people dig for roots of fir, in the moſſes, both for light and firewood. In Ranoch, there are 32 villages in the pariſh, and 3 belonging to the pariſh of Logierait.

Hills, Lakes, Rivers, &c.——As to hills, lakes, rivers, and muirs, we have them in abundance. Loch-Ranoch, in the middle of that country, is 12 miles long; Loch-Errack, a part of which is in this pariſh, is in length 24 miles. They are both about a mile in breadth. Beſides theſe, there are Loch-Lyon, and a number of ſmall lochs, ſcattered through the muirs; ſome of them a mile in length. All theſe are ſtored with a vaſt variety of trout, perch, &c. In Ranoch they catch trouts from 1 lb. to 24 lb. weight.

The great rivers are the Lyon, the Errack, and the Gauir. The two latter, when they iſſue from Loch-Ranoch, are called the Tumble, a river as large as the Tay, where they join. In the Lyon, ſalmon are caught from the beginning of April, to September, and are ſold from 4d. to 6d. a pound.

Thichallin, (which ſignifies the Maiden's Breaſt, its form being quite round,) is one of the higheſt hills in the iſland. According to one menſuration, its height is 3,564 feet; ac-

cording to another, 3,587 feet above the level of the ſea. Some of the hills of Glenlyon, and Bein-Ardlanich, in Rannoch, are not much lower.

There is a fine fountain, iſſuing from the foot of Thichallin; to which people reſort, when they have any gravelliſh complaint. It is highly diuretic, and carries off ſand and ſmall ſtones, through the urinary paſſages.

There are ſeveral ſmall veins of lead ore, jutting out here and there, in the rocks, behind Fortingal. There is one in Glenlyon, that had been wrought for a ſhort ſpace, about 60 years ago; but it did not anſwer the expence. Perhaps this was, in ſome meaſure, owing, to there being no roads in the country, at that time, (every thing being then carried on horſeback), which occaſioned too much expence, in tranſporting the ore, &c.

Population, Horſes, Sheep, &c.——The number of ſouls is 3,914. The return to Dr Webſter was 3,859. But the preſent incumbent, who then held the living, ſent only the amount of his examination roll. It is not known, whether Dr Webſter, as in the caſe of Largs, (ſee p. 362,) calculated, from certain data, the number of ſouls, from the amount of examinable perſons reported to him; or whether, he ſuppoſed, the number returned contained the whole inhabitants in the pariſh. There is every reaſon to believe, that the females are 600 more than the males.——The regiſter of baptiſms is neither exact nor complete. There were regiſtered, during the 3 years preceding 1791, as follows; 98,—108,—112: a good many years ago, the number of baptiſms was 124. Marriages in theſe years, were 32,—30,—36. No account at all can be given of the deaths, owing to there being 7 different burial grounds. According to the beſt information, that can be got, there are 487 children below 5, and 447 between 5 and 10 years of age. It may be added, that fewer children

die

die in the Highlands, than almoſt any where, particularly ſince inoculation has been ſo univerſally practiſed; which it has been, for a good many years back, to the ſaving of many lives.

In general, the people are pretty long lived. Many are between 80 and 90;—ſome between 90 and 100; a few live beyond that age. There is, at preſent, a gentleman, living, and ſtill healthy and ſtrong, aged 103, who attended a funeral the firſt year of this century, and bore arms under the Marquis of Atholl, the year before the Union. We have alſo a woman born the ſame year with him. The preſent incumbent likewiſe knew, about 30 years ago, one Donald Cameron, who lived, it was credibly aſſerted, to the amazing age of 127!

The number of tenants is 354; of crofters 105; of cottagers, 250; of men ſervants, 152; of maid ſervants, 289. Among the cottagers are the handy-crafts-men, who ſerve the country.

The pariſh is, at leaſt in ſome diſtricts of it, greatly depopulated, ſince the year 1754. No leſs than 105 tenants have been removed, and between 60 and 70 cottagers. The commiſſioners, upon the lately annexed eſtates, began this, by letting extenſive farms, and others have followed the example. Upon the whole, the population is ſaid to have decreaſed by ſome hundreds, ſince that time. Some, but not many, have emigrated to America. The moſt of them have gone ſouthward to the towns.

There are no Papiſts, Seceders, nor Jacobites, although the latter were formerly numerous. There are about a dozen of Epiſcopalians.

The people here live, a full half of the year, moſtly upon potatoes. This root, with a little milk, butter, beef, or mutton, which the tenants commonly have, makes excellent food.

Even

Even the poor, have about half a year's proviſion from potatoes; which they eat along with a little butter, and the fleſh of an old ſheep or two, which they kill for that purpoſe.

The number of horſes is 819; of cows, 2310; of ſheep, 27,286, or nearly ſo. The value of a highland cow is from L. 3 to L. 4. Two year old wedders ſell from 8s. to 10s. three year olds, from 11s to 13s.

Rent, Heritors, Stipend, &c.—The rent of this pariſh, including the gentlemens farms, is full L. 4,660. The ſtipend, beſides glebe and graſs, worth about L. 4 a year, is L. 55:11:0$\frac{1}{12}$ with allowance of L. 5:11:0$\frac{1}{2}$ for communion elements. The charge is uncommonly laborious. For two ſabbaths, the miniſter preaches at Fortingal; the third at 13; the fourth at 15; and the fifth at 24 miles diſtance, in different parts of his pariſh. At preſent he has an itinerant miniſter to aſſiſt him.

There are 11 heritors in the pariſh, 8 of whom reſide in it. There has been but little change of property for a century paſt; only ſome wadſets turned into feus, or exchanges of feus. The Gaelic is the language that is commonly ſpoken.

Poor.—The poor beg from houſe to houſe. Such as are deemed fit objects, have aſſiſtance from the funds, according to their neceſſities. The funds ariſe from the weekly collections, and from ſmall fines. The amount of the ſtock at preſent, is L. 92. Collections are about L. 36 *per annum*. Three different and diſtant places in the pariſh, have each their kirk-ſeſſions, and boxes, as they are called. At three different times, when meal was uncommonly ſcarce, from L. 10 to L. 15. at a time, was expended, to bring meal to the country. This was ſold to crofters and tradeſmen, at the Perth prices, which to them was a ſaving of half a crown per boll. The

begging

begging poor have a ſhare of every thing the tenants can afford; meal, wool, milk, &c. They go about, twice or thrice a year, lay by a little, then apply to ſpinning, or ſome little induſtry, to procure themſelves ſome of the neceſſaries, or conveniencies of life. It would be deemed impious to refuſe an alms, or a night's quarters to a poor perſon.—— There are a great many beggars from other places. The only grievance, in this reſpect, is from ſwarms of tinkers, ſailors, and vagrants, from the great towns, who, by dreadful imprecations and threatenings, extort charity, and immediately waſte it in drunkenneſs and riot. Theſe are often guilty of theft, ſometimes of robbery.

Prices, Wages, &c.—Butcher meat is fully as high priced as in the great towns. Cheeſe, 6s. butter, 12s. the ſtone; a hen, 6d. 12 eggs, 3d. A ſervant man's wages are from L. 5 to L. 6. A maid's, from L. 2:10, to L. 3. taylors, ſhoemakers, and day labourers, get 6d, carpenters 8d, and maſons 14d, beſides maintenance.

The general run of farms is, from 4 to 6 acres laboured land. Some few have 12 acres; ſtill fewer have double that quantity. The rent is principally paid for the graſs. The whole tenants of the pariſh are reſtricted to a certain number of cattle, which they muſt not exceed. A crofter pays for an acre of ground, and the privilege of keeping a cow and 6 ſheep, L. 1:13:4; for 2, double that ſum. A tenant, for his 5 or 6 acres, 2 horſes, 10 cows, and their followers, 100 ſheep and their lambs, pays L. 20, and a little more ſometimes. Few of the tenants have a man ſervant. A village or two, join about a ſhepherd. The ſheep are never houſed, the ſtorms never being heavy, owing to the weſterly ſituation.

We have no ale-houſes, but ten whiſky houſes. The conſumption of this ſpirit is not half what it was.

Schools.

Schools.—The Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge have erected 4 charity ſchools in the pariſh. The ſalary of their ſchoolmaſters is L. 10. The people, who are diſtant from theſe, and the pariſh ſchool, pay for a boy to teach their children to read and write. We have 6 of theſe private ſchools.

Curioſities, and Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—Among our curioſities, may be reckoned a yew tree, in the church yard of Fortingal, 52 feet round. An old act of parliament, ordered all the burial grounds in the kingdom, to be planted with yews for bows. This is probably the only remaining one, and an extraordinary tree it is.

The Roman camp, already mentioned, is certainly the fartheſt inland one, of any that has been hitherto obſerved. The ditch and rampart are filled up, or broken down, in many places, by the plough. The Prætorium is quite complete: The area within is about 80 acres. The late Lord Breadalbine employed ſome labourers to dig for antiquities: all they got was three urns. Roman coins have been got in different places, in the country adjacent.

There are a great many forts throughout every diſtrict in the pariſh. They are circular, from 30 to 50 feet diameter, built with immenſe ſtones. One would wonder, how they could be moved, without machines. Their height is inconſiderable, not above 5 feet; but a good many of the ſtones have fallen. They are in view of one another, which would make one think they might be alarm towers. They extend from Dunkeld to Glenorchy, and perhaps farther. There are two much larger, that had outworks *

Before

* According to tradition, a battle was fought in Bunrannoch, betwixt

Before the year 1745, Ranoch was in an uncivilized barbarous ſtate, under no check, or reſtraint of laws. As an evidence of this, one of the principal proprietors, never could be compelled to pay his debts. Two meſſengers were ſent from Perth, to give him a charge of horning. He ordered a dozen of his retainers to bind them acroſs two hand-barrows, and carry them, in this ſtate, to the bridge of Cainachan, at 9 miles diſtance. His property in particular was a neſt of thieves. They laid the whole country, from Stirling to Coupar of Angus, under contribution, obliging the inhabitants to pay them, Black Meal, as it is called, to ſave their property from being plundered. This was the center of this kind of traffic. In the months of September and October, they gathered to the number of about 300, built temporary huts, drank whiſky all the time, ſettled accounts for ſtolen cattle, and received balances. Every man then bore arms. It would have required a regiment to have brought a thief from that country. But Government having ſent a party of ſoldiers to reſide among them, and a thief having been hung at their doors, they ſoon felt the neceſſity of reformation, and they

betwixt King Robert and Edward's adherents. The place where the latter came down to the country, is called Glen Saſſan, "The Engliſhman's Glen;" the ground where they firſt fought, is called Innerchadden, "the point where the battle began;" the ſpot where Robert got the victory, is called, Dailchoſnie, "the field of victory." Two miles to the eaſtward, is a large wood, where King Robert is ſaid to have concealed himſelf, for ſome time, after a defeat near the borders of Argleſhire. The ground all around is rough, ſtony and full of precipices. There was but one ford upon the Tumble, for ſeveral miles. This was hard by. The hut, where he lodged, is ſtill called, in the Gaelic language, the King's Houſe, the ford, the King's Ford; and the eminence above, the King's Watch Tower.

are now as honeſt, and as ſtrict a ſet of people, in theſe matters, as any in the kingdom.

In the year 1754, the country was almoſt impaſſable. There were no roads, nor bridges. Now, by the ſtatute-labour, we have got excellent roads, and 12 bridges. In a few years, we ſhall have other two, which is all that could be deſired. The people contribute chearfully and liberally to build them, and this preſerves many lives.

At the above period, the bulk of the tenants in Ranoch had no ſuch thing as beds. They lay on the ground, with a little heather, or fern, under them, One ſingle blanket was all their bed-cloaths, excepting their body-cloaths. Now they have ſtanding-up beds, and abundance of blankets. At that time, the houſes in Rannoch were huts of, what they called, "Stake and Riſe." One could not enter but on all fours; and after entering, it was impoſſible to ſtand upright. Now there are comfortable houſes built of ſtone. Then the people were miſerably dirty, and foul-ſkinned. Now they are as cleanly, and are clothed as well as their circumſtances will admit of. The rents of the pariſh, at that period, were not much above L. 1500, and the people were ſtarving. Now they pay L.4660 *per annum*, and upwards, and the people have fulneſs of bread.

It is hardly poſſible to believe, on how little the Highlanders formerly lived. They bled their cows ſeveral times in the year, boiled the blood, eat a little of it like bread, and a moſt laſting meal it was. The preſent incumbent has known a poor man, who had a ſmall farm hard by him, by this means, with a boll of meal for every mouth in his family, paſs the whole year.

The circumſtances, which have occaſioned the greater wealth and abundance of the preſent times, are, the planting of ſo many potatoes, the advance in the price of cattle and ſheep,

the

the greater induſtry of the people, the ſtop that has been put to the depredations of thieves, and the people, inſtead of rearing black cattle, having turned their farms into ſheep-walks, which they find much more profitable. Theſe are likewiſe the cauſes of the great riſe of rent. In 1754, the tenants planted perhaps one lippie or two of potatoes. Now they plant a boll, two bolls, or more. They keep the potatoe ground very clean. The general increaſe is 12 bolls or more. Few ſowed any lintſeed at that time. Perhaps there were not two hogſheads ſown in the pariſh. Now there are perhaps 24 hogſheads ſown yearly, every tenant and crofter having from one to four lippies. The increaſe is about one ſtone from the lippie. The wives and maids ſpin the flax; the yarn is purchaſed by dealers, who travel over the country for that purpoſe, and by whom it is ſent to Perth or Glaſgow.

The people here marry young. Either owing to the climate, their moderate labour, their temperate living, or other cauſes, they have an uncommonly numerous offſpring. This is the reaſon, why the Highlands are a nurſery, for raiſing ſo many uſeful hands, for the countries below them. It is almoſt incredible to tell, what ſwarms leave the country every year, and go to the ſouth for ſervice. Almoſt all the boys, from 10 to 15, go to tend ſheep or cattle, and learn a little Engliſh.—— Many of them afterwards go into ſervice, or to handicraft employments, and never return. Beſides theſe, crofters, cottagers, and day-labourers, who can earn no bread at home, ſet out for the great towns to get employment. Our extenſive ſheep-walks are certainly, in that reſpect a loſs to the public. It is now exceedingly difficult to raiſe recruits among us. Attachment to chieftains and lairds is dying away. Labour is not ſuch a burden as it was; And what, more than every thing elſe, makes it difficult to recruit, is, that the people know the ſecurity and protection which the law affords them.

No

No manufactures can be eſtabliſhed here, owing to the ſcarcity of meal and fuel. Perhaps it might be more for the public and private advantage, if the people ſhould ſpin their wool inſtead of lint, and ſend it to market in that ſtate. Immenſe packs of wool are ſent away every year to Perth, Stirling, &c. The wool is coarſe, owing to the ſouth country breed we have got among us, and ſells only from 7s to 8s per ſtone.

The great grievances, under which this pariſh labours, are, the largeneſs of ſome of the farms, and there being ſcarce any leaſes. In regard to the firſt, it is queſtionable, whether the great farmers can afford to pay as high rents, as the moderately large ones, as they live in a ſtile of much greater luxury and expence. As to the ſecond point, no great improvements can be expected; at leaſt on the part of the tenants, whilſt the tenure, by which they hold their lands, continues ſo temporary and precarious.

In regard to the general character of the people, they are as induſtrious, pious and charitable as any of their neighbours, or perhaps any in the kingdom.

NUMBER XLI.

PARISHES OF BLAIR-ATHOLL, AND STROWAN.

(COUNTY OF PERTH.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES M'LAGAN.

Origin of the Names.

THESE parishes commonly go by the name of the united parishes of Blair-Atholl, and Strowan. They consisted formerly of the parishes of Blair-Atholl, Strowan, Lude, and Kilmaveonog. *Blair* (*Blàr*) properly signifies a plain clear of woods and other incumbrances; but the Celtæ, of whom the Gael were a branch, in general, chusing such plains for their fields of battle, *Blàr* came at length to signify a battle. *Strowan* (*Sruthain*) signifies streams, so called from the confluence of the Garry and the Erochty at that place. These streams seem to have given that parish its name, and Robertson of Strowan, (in English, Robertson of the Streams), his title. *Kilmaveonog*, signifies the place of worship, or burial place * of St. Eonog, or Veonog. *Lude*, (*Le'oid*)

* Cella (Kella), sancti, or rather sanctæ, Eonog. *Cuil* and *Ceal*,

(*Le'oid*) seems to signify declivities, where a plough could bring a furrow only one way. The antient Celtic names of places and things, were generally short descriptions of them, though, in some cases, they also originated from remarkable persons, and accidental circumstances. It is the more necessary to ascertain these derivations *now*, as the country senachies, or historians, who, in general, can best account for these things, are daily growing worse, as labour becomes harder, and more indispensable. No time, therefore, should be lost, in collecting what information yet remains, regarding these particulars, before it is entirely gone, perhaps, never to be recovered.

Situation, Extent, and Surface.——These united parishes are situated in the Shire of Perth, in the presbytery of Dunkeld, and the synod of Perth and Stirling. Their extent is upwards of 30 miles in length; and, allowing for the ascents and descents of the hills, above 18 miles in breadth.—Through a large tract of country, the surface and appearances are various. On the summits of the high mountains, the weather has left little else than gravel and stones, covered with moss. This part is called Creachonn (*creach-fhonn*), i. e. robbed land, the soil having been blown, or washed away, a good way down the sides. Farther down is heath, uva ursi, the craw-berry plant; on mossy or boggy places, the cloudberry plant, and on drier ground, the whortle-berry-bush, with coarse grass. Lower down is heath, peat-bog, valleys full

Ceal, signifying a sequestered corner, cave, &c. Those, who retired to such a place, were called *cuildeach*, plural *cuildich*; which they who spoke, or wrote Latin, turned into *culdeus* and *culdei*, altering only the termination.

full of pretty good paſture, and here and there a green ſpot, with huts upon them; to which the women, children, and herds, retire with the cattle for the ſummer ſeaſon. Deſcending ſtill farther down, the air and the ſoil generally change for the better; but, in ſome places, the hills, within ſight of the rivers, are ſtoney and bad. The veſtiges of the plough are often ſeen much higher up, than it goes at preſent; probably becauſe the wood then, made higher places warmer, and much of the bottom was a thicket.——In the ſides of the glens and valleys, the ſoil is various;—in ſeveral places it is thin and light, as it is alſo in the bottoms, where the rivers once ran; in other places it is good, eſpecially where the veins of limeſtone run from N. E. to S. W. through the country. In the ſummer ſeaſon, the face of the country is green, with corn, graſs, and wood. In the bottom of every glen and valley, there is a river, or ſtream; and in ſome of them, a loch, or lake. An extenſive ſtrath, or valley, lies along the Garry, from the Kirktown of Strowan, for 6 miles downwards; and Strath-tummel runs along the loch of that name, which is 2 miles long. The reſt of the pariſh conſiſts of many glens, along the rivulets, that fall from the mountains, and of rocks, and extenſive hills; of which very little more is capable of cultivation.

Mountains and Hills.—In theſe pariſhes are many conſiderable mountains; but the moſt remarkable of them are Beinn-deirg, i. e. the Red Mountain, (ſo called from a vein of red ſtone, ſaid to be a kind of granite), which riſes 3550 feet above the level of the ſea; and Beinn-glo, the higheſt pinnacle of which, Carn-nan-gour, i. e. the Mountain of Goats, riſes 3724 feet above the ſaid level.

Srath-dhrnaidh, in Strath-groy, is one of thoſe roundiſh green hills, that they call Sioth dhun, i. e. the Hill of Peace;

becauſe on theſe they made peace, and other contracts of old, They probably reckoned the matters here tranſacted, the more ſolemn, too, that they believed the Sighichin, or Fairies, ſuppoſed to dwell in thoſe hills, to be witneſſes of their tranſactions*. Theſe hills were generally natural, but ſometimes artificial. The Duni-pacis of Buchanan, (in Engliſh, Dunipace,) is a literal tranſlation of Sioth-dhun.

There is alſo another kind of a ſteep green hill, in theſe countries, and in Ireland, called Rath and Rata, from Rath, and Roith, a wheel; becauſe, being generally conical, at leaſt in part, their baſes were round like a wheel, or circular. Chieftains and great men had their houſes frequently on the tops of ſuch; becauſe they were difficult of acceſs on all ſides. Theſe gave names to many places, as, Rata-mhili (Vili) or the Soldier's Rath or Rata, 4 miles above Dunkeld; Lagan-rata, Logyraite; near which, one of our King Roberts had a ſtrong houſe, above the boat of Tummel. Rothymurchus, Rerath, &c. are from the ſame root.

Climate and Diſeaſes.—The ſoil of theſe pariſhes would be much more productive of corn, graſs, and even wood, were the climate but nearly proportionable to it. But ſometimes the rains hurt the crops, eſpecially in harveſt. Sometimes we have ſnow too early, or too late; but, what is worſt of all, we have much cold, froſty weather, piereing northerly winds, and blaſting fogs and hoar-froſts, particularly along the rivers, which either hurt the growth of vegetables, or deſtroy them after they are grown up. The coldneſs and ſharpneſs of the air, too, muſt, in ſome degree, ſtint the growth, and render the faces of the people more thin and dry, than otherwiſe they would be.

The air, in general, is not remarkably moiſt or dry; nor are the inhabitants greatly ſubject to any particular diſtempers,

* See p. 73.

pers. The ſmall-pox in the natural way, and the meaſles, are among the moſt fatal. Fevers are generally brought thither from the low countries; cold, colics, pleuritic fevers, rheumatiſms, conſumptions, &c. are rather accidental, than neceſſary conſequences of the climate, which is, in general, ſalubrious. On the other hand, the inhabitants are not remarkable for longevity. Many live to 75; fewer to 80, fewer ſtill to 90, and the inſtances are very rare of any that approach to 100 years of age. A perſon, however, died about 3 years ago, who was ſaid to have wanted but little of it. Although the climate be healthy, the body of the people have not, by any means, the conveniencies of life, that are neceſſary to nurſe old age.

Lochs, Rivers, and Mineral Springs—There are many lochs, and two conſiderable rivers, (the Tummel and the Garry,) in the pariſh. Salmon come up the Tummel to the Fall, which is a little above the confluence of the two rivers.——But the arts that are now practiſed, by the fiſhers below, let very few ſalmon the length of either river; and the ſteeping of flax, in running waters, hurts the fiſh of every kind. The rivulets are the Erochty, the Bruir, and the Tilt. The Tummel overflows a deal of ground. The Erochty and Garry are, conſtantly, tearing their banks, and altering their channels. The Garry deſtroys a fine plain for 6 miles below Strowan.——There are many chalybeate ſprings, but none of them famous, or reſorted to: indeed, their virtues are not inveſtigated, or attended to.

Woods.—There is no extenſive wood in the pariſh, but many ſmall ones. The laſt century, and the beginning of the preſent, have deſtroyed much wood, by fire and otherwiſe.—Places ſtill bear the name of woods, where there is not a tree to be ſeen now. The ſhelter they afforded to wolves, foxes,

and other vermin, induced people to deſtroy them; but they did not know when to ſtop, and ſo went too far. The woods are now better looked after. The Dukes of Athol have planted a good deal, and Mr Robertſon of Lude ſome. The prevailing kinds of timber are birch, alder, aſh, oak, poplar, and hazle; the ſhrubs are willow, broom, bog-gall, heath, &c. Wood thrives very well in this country.

Game, &c.—In an extenſive foreſt, and over many other parts of the hills, there are a great number of red deer; in and near the woods, there are roe-deer; almoſt every where there are plenty of hares, and, on the high mountains, white hares, which, in ſummer, have bluiſh ſpots.——In the hills and woods, are foxes, wild cats, pole cats, martins, weaſles, and ſhrew mice: in the waters, otters. We have alſo two ſpecies of the badger.——Of the winged kind, there are, on the tops of the mountains, ptarmagans; in the hills, grouſe; near the woods, black game, and patridges below. The ravenous birds are, eagles, buzzards, hawks of various kinds, ravens, carion crows, and magpies. The migratory birds are ſimilar to thoſe uſual in the Highlands.

Population.——In Auguſt 1791, there were living in the united pariſhes, 3120 ſouls, viz. 1480 males, and 1640 females. Of that number, 758 were under eight years of age. The yearly average of marriages, for the laſt 10 years, was nearly 26; and the yearly average of baptiſms, for the ſame period, was 94. Beſides the number above mentioned, there is a conſiderable number of young people, belonging to the pariſh, ſerving in the eaſt and weſt; of whom part will probably return, and part will not.

Though it cannot be exactly determined, the probability is, that the number of the people in this pariſh is diminiſhed,

owing

owing to ſeveral cauſes. When people of ſmall landed property no longer lived upon the produce of their eſtates, but followed the example of their wealthier neighbours, in the uſe of foreign commodities, they contracted debt, ſold their eſtates, and went to puſh their fortunes elſewhere. When the juriſdiction act took place, and men of landed property could not make their tenants fight their battles, they became leſs careful of having clever fellows about them, and ſo began to conſider, how they might make the moſt of that claſs of men in another way. Then the rents began to be raiſed, the farms to be enlarged, much land to be taken into the landlord's domain, and the ſhepherd and his dog to be the inhabitants of farms, that formerly maintained many families; though this laſt particular is not, as yet, ſo much the caſe here, as it is in many other places. In conſequence of theſe changes, ſome of the tenants are become cottagers; ſome have removed to towns, to gain a livelihood by labour; and a few have emigrated to America, though that ſpirit is not become very common here as yet. The return to Dr Webſter, however, being only 3257 ſouls, the decreaſe has been inconſiderable.

Number of Proprietors.—There are at preſent only eleven heritors, one of whom (the Duke of Athol) poſſeſſes at leaſt one half of the pariſh. Five of theſe, either occaſionally, or conſtantly, reſide in it.

Tenants.—The tenants, who hold from a half to a whole merk land, have been reckoned about 240, paying from L. 5 to L. 10 rent; and thoſe who pay from L. 10 to L. 70 only 20. Tradeſman (mechanics,) labourers, and cottagers, who have pendicles, may amount to 85, paying from 15s to L. 2 per acre. Only one tenant has a very large tract of arable ground.

Number of Acres and Rent. Without a particular meaſurement, it is impoſſible to give the exact number of acres in the pariſh. From the general maps, the ſum total is reckoned to be about 130,000 Scots acres; and, of theſe, not above 4000 are at preſent under tillage. The valued rent is L. 4204 : 18 : 8. This ſum bears a very ſmall proportion to the real rent, which it is not eaſy to give, becauſe it is conſtantly riſing.

Number of Horſes. Some think, there may about 1000 horſes, large and ſmall, in the pariſh ſtill. Before the introduction of ſheep farms, and the keeping of diſtinct marches, a number of the common people had ſmall horſes in the hills, all the year round, excepting in the time of deep ſnow, when their owners brought them home, and helped them with fodder. At a certain time of the year, each caught and marked his own, and broke them for his own uſe, or ſold ſuch as were fit for work, except the breeding mares. During the reſt of the year, they ranged, where they pleaſed, through the hills. As they cannot do this any longer, they are almoſt extirpated, and the price of horſes has riſen beyond all bounds.

Number of Sheep and Black Cattle.—Formerly, almoſt every tenant had a ſmall number of ſheep; at preſent, many of them have none. There are now, in the pariſh, 4 conſiderable ſtocks of ſheep; two of them belonging to the principal heritors; but the others to ſheep farmers. They conſiſt of from 1000 to upwards of 2000 ſheep each; which, added to what the tenants have, according to the old method, may amount to upwards of 16,000 ſheep in all. The number of black cattle may be from 2000 to 3000. The goats are almoſt gone.

Crops.—The principal crops are barley, oats, potatoes, and flax, with ſome peaſe and rye. In high, wet, and late grounds, they uſe early oats. The proprietors, and ſuch tenants as have incloſed land, ſow turnips, clover, and rye-graſs. The ſeed-time and harveſt are rather late, than otherwiſe, eſpecially in the glens. Grain of all kinds is dearer here, than in the low countries. Some fruit is raiſed; but the country, in general, is too high and froſty for orchards.

Imports and Exports.—The common imports are ſeed-corn, of the different kinds, meal, and barley for a few ſtills. The potatoes have conſiderably leſſened the demand for meal. As to foreign articles, they are the ſame as people of the ſame rank and abilities import elſewhere. Our exports are a few black cattle, ſheep, and linen-yarn. It was this laſt article which principally brought ready money into the country, to pay the rents. The materials were raiſed at home; and almoſt every one had a ſhare in that buſineſs. It has already felt the baneful effects of the cotton manufactures, the materials of which are brought from afar, and by which few gain in proportion.

Church, &c.—The Duke of Athol is patron. The ſtipend conſiſts of L. 55 : 17 in money, and glebes that are reckoned worth L. 20;—in all L. 75 : 17 ſterling.

Poor.—By a gift and mortification of the Marquis of Athol's, dated in 1687, proviſion was made, in meal and money, for ſix poor men in the pariſh; which is now divided among eight men, preſented by the Duke, as follows: Six men have each 2 bolls of oat meal, and L. 4 Scots, yearly, and each of the other two has L. 8 : 6 : 8d. Scots. The number of the other poor, who receive alms, is, at an average, about 75.

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The annual amount of the collections at the church-door, mort-cloth (pall) dues, and fines, is, at an average, for ſeven years, L. 17 : 6 : 1. The poors funds are rather under L. 200. Sterling. The intereſt of this ſum, and the above collections, are diſtributed among them, by the ſeſſion, and as nearly proportioned to their circumſtances, as can be done; the largeſt ſhares being given to ſuch as are confined to their beds, and it is carried to their houſes by the elders. The above ſum of near L. 200, conſiſts partly of mortifications; and he who is appointed to one of them, receives whatever the intereſt of the mortification amounts to. Such of the poor as can travel through the pariſh, receive leſs from the funds; becauſe they can gather their ſubſiſtence among their neighbours, with whom meal, and other proviſions, are more plentiful than money. When it is judged expedient, intimation is given, from the pulpit, the heritors meet, on a day appointed, inſpect the ſeſſion-books, and give what orders, concerning the poor, they judge neceſſary.

Morals.——The moſt common vices here, are ſuch as may be expected in that ſtate of ſociety, where the people are poor, and where the moſt extenſive farmers have but little to themſelves after paying the landlord.——But there are very few inſtances of capital crimes: Suicide is ſcarcely known, murders very rare, executions and baniſhments very uncommon; a very moderate exertion of the civil magiſtrate, and execution of the laws, would be ſufficient to maintain good order among the people. They are, in general, become induſtrious, and improve their land by lime, marle, and otherwiſe. They have a reaſonable ſhare of acuteneſs, are diſpoſed to be friendly to one another, hoſpitable to ſtrangers, and charitable to the poor. The gentlemen are tall and handſome, and fond of a military life; and, though the

the common people have learned to deſpiſe a ſoldier's pay, and to hate a life of ſervitude, yet they have ſtill a deal of the martial ſpirit remaining, and make very good ſoldiers, when once they undertake it; being firm, hardy, and brave, though not generally tall. Seven or eight hundred of them attended the Marquis of Montroſe, till after the battle of Kilſyth, and ſignalized themſelves by their fidelity and valour. With regard to religion, they have not many diſputes, nor do they make much noiſe about it; but, in general, they attend the church, and religious ordinances, with gravity, decency, and every appearance of ſincerity; and many of them enter deeply into ſome of the moſt important points of controverſy among Chriſtians.

Language.——The Gaelic language is ſpoken here, by the natives; and there are but few others in the pariſh. It was in all probability, the firſt language ſpoken in this country. That it gave the antient names to places is clear. There are, indeed, a few names, ſuch as *dour*, *cabar*, *&c.* that are as common among the Welſh, as among us; but whether theſe names have been originally given by a colony of Welſh, or by the Caledonians, or Picts, the people themſelves appear to have been only different colonies of the ſame Celtæ or Gael *.

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* Theſe names, by the by, ſeem to come from two words of the ſame ſignification, viz. *Coill*, or *Coille*, and *Gad*, a wood. From *Coille* comes *Coilltich*, (Κελται), Inhabitants of the Woods. From *Gad*, in Scots Gaelic, ſignifying a Withe or Twig, in Welſh, a Wood, come *Gaidhiol* (*Gad-ghiola*), *Gadelians* (or *Giadelians*), *Galli*, and *Gadeni*, names given to the Gaidheil, or Gael of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales; all ſignifying Men of the Wood; probably

The name of the country, from Dunkeld to the marches of Badenoch, towards Dalchuiny, Atholl (or Adh-oll), is evidently from this ſource. *Adh* ſignifies happineſs, or pleaſantneſs, and *oll*, great; great pleaſantneſs. The Grampian mountains, too, appear to be ſo called, from the word *Grampla*, ſtill retained by the Corniſh, as well as by the French, *grimper*, to climb, or mount; but it more probably comes from *gruaim*, gloominеſs, and *beinn*, a mountain, on account of the clouds that cover them. *Beinn-glo*, the Mountain with the Vail, to wit, of Clouds and Snow: *Beinn-deirg*, the Red Mountain, on account of the red granite in it;—*Beinn-vurich*, the Hill of roaring or rutting; and *Drumuachdar*, the ſuperior ridge,—are all equally expreſſive of their origin.——The names of the rivers, too, are from the ſame language. *Garry* (*Gath-ruiſh*), the flight of the Dart, becauſe of its rapidity. *Tummel* (*Taivil*), ſhadowy, obſcure, from its woody and rocky banks. *Erochty*, from *eirigh*, to riſe, and *ath*, a river; or rather from *oireachdas*, *eireachdas*, an aſſembly; this being a centrical, and yet a retired place, where forces might be collected for an expedition; (which uſe, Duncan Ravar, the chief of the Robertſons, is known to have made of it, in the time of the two Bruces;) or to ſecure women, children, and valuable effects, from the enemy. In ſupport of this, in the head of Glenerochty, is *Trinafuir*, or *Tir-a-vuir*, the third, or the land of the wall or caſtle; and *Dail-nan-ſonnoch*, the Plain of Paliſades, or Stocades. *Bruir* (*Bru-vir*) noiſy Water. *Tilt*, (*Teilt*) *Te-alt*, the Warm Rivulet, from its ſheltered warm banks. *Gairnog*, the Little noiſy Stream. *Banvy*, the Rivulet of the Boar, or rather, that lays land waſte. *Coille-chriothnuich*,

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probably becauſe they firſt moved to the weſtward, when the face of the earth was all covered with wood.

thnuich, the Wood of Trembling, (Killicranky) from its awful appearance. *Fonn-a-vuic*, the Land of the (Roe) Buck. *Bo-rainich*, the Ferry Booths. *Loch-loch*, a loch conſiſting of lochs, becauſe it is in three diviſions. Each of the rivers gives a name to the valley, or glen it runs through: They alſo generally give names to the lakes, whence they flow.

Antiquities——On the Eaſt bank of the Tilt, which falls into the Garry, ſouth eaſt of Atholl-houſe, is Clagh-ghil-Aindreas, or the cemetery of Andrew's diſciple. What the Tilt has left of it, is a part of a circle; many of the bones are entire, but crumble to pieces, when touched. The coffins are compoſed of five flags each, and ſeem to have been uſed, to ſave the trouble of making wooden coffins; or probably, to preſerve the corps from the wolves. To the ſouthward of this ſtood Anderſmaſs market, which is now held at Perth. Here was a large white ſtone, which was the market croſs, and remained upon a little raiſed circle of earth, till Duke James's time. To the eaſtward of the cemetery, there are the remains of a large Druidical cairn; but the ſmall ones have been moſtly carried away. About a quarter of a mile up the ſame bank of the Tilt, is one of thoſe round caſtles, that are ſo frequent in theſe countries, and which probably anſwered the purpoſes both of forts, and of watch towers. Above half a mile ſtill farther up, ſtands Tom-a-vuir, (Tom-a-mhuir), or the hill of the well, or fort; where, it is ſaid, the M'Intoſhes of Tiriny lived of old. It is ſtrongly ſituated on a ſteep bank of the river Tilt.

About a mile to the eaſtward of Tilt, lies Strath-groy, (Srath-ghruaidh, or Srath-dhruaidh,) i. e. probably, the valley of the Druids. About the middle of it, and not a furlong from the river, Mr Stewart, who farms that land, lately dug up a ſtone, of about 6 feet long, above a foot broad, and half

as thick. It ſtood perpendicular, all under ground, and firm ly propped in that poſture with ſmall ſtones.

Above a furlong to the eaſtward of this ſtone, are two caſtles, nearly round, on the top of a pretty high ridge, above a gun-ſhot from the high way, a few paces from each other, having double, and in ſome places triple ditches. Before the gates ſtand ſeveral obeliſks, in a zig-zag poſition; probably for the protection of champions, that defended the entries, and to obſtruct the enemy's acceſs. Theſe ſeem to be of a later date, than the other round caſtles.

About a quarter of a mile to the weſtward of the caſtles, and along the Garry, lies, *Eelein-an-righ*, i. e. King's Iſle, quite level; below the caſtles are Dalruinich, i. e. *Dail-ruith-nan-each*, the Plain of the Running of Horſes; and *Dail-an-aonuich*, the Plain of Gallopping, or Horſe Races. From the ſituations and names of theſe, it is more than probable, that horſe races, and perhaps other games, were celebrated here, particularly when the kings of Scotland came to the hunting. For them too, it is probable, the two caſtles above-mentioned may have been built.

Half a mile above the caſtles, and near *Clunemore*, ſtill entire, is a ſacrificing cairn, 60 geometrical paces in circumference, having ſeveral large flags on the top, which probably conſtituted the altar; and, hard by it, two obeliſks, ſeemingly a part of a circle or temple. Above a mile N. W. of this cairn, on the bank of the Fender, ſtands *Tulchan*, (i. e. the little hill,) another cairn, much larger than the former, and ſo old, that the ſoil has, in a great meaſure, covered the ſtones. Betwixt theſe two cairns, to the weſtward of Lude's Houſe, ran, in a S. W. direction, a line of ſmall cairns. Whether they were a part of the great Druidical work, or the graves of men killed in battle, is hard to ſay. The ſoil being good, the plough has overturned moſt of theſe ancient works.

Several

Several miles to the N. E. of Tulchan, and on the north ſide of Beinn-glo, is Lochainn, i. e. *Loch-amhain*, or the River that is ſlow like a loch. It runs from Lochloch, towards the Tilt. Upon Lochainn, are the veſtiges of the palace, in which the Earl of Atholl entertained King James V, his mother, the French ambaſſador, &c. in a moſt ſumptuous manner, as is mentioned in hiſtory; and, which was burnt to the ground, as ſoon as the king left it.

On the ſouth ſide of Beinn-glo, on a riſing ground, are to be ſeen the traces of a ſemicircular work, fronting the weſt. A rill runs through the centre of it; the banks of it appear to have been well ſecured by large ſtones; and, in the front, for a conſiderable extent, there is a moſs or bog, called *Moine-nan-gal*, i. e. the Moſs of the Lowlanders,—of the ſtrangers, or of the enemies, who are ſaid to have been there defeated. In the laſt generation, one Robertſon found two pans, ſunk in this moſs, which ſeemed to have been very old. Capt. William Robertſon of Lude, who examined this camp, thinks the Danes built it, in attempting to force their way, through the heart of the country, to their poſſeſſions in the Hebrides. A party of Baliol's friends are ſaid to have paſſed this way, after having been defeated, by King Robert Bruce, at Inverchadain and Dailchoiſny, in Bunrannoch: But whether this camp is not much older, or whether they had a camp there at all, is uncertain.

To the eaſtward of the camp, along Glengairnog, are to be ſeen ſome pieces of a road, called *Rod-na-banrinn*, or the Queen's Road; by which, probably, one or more of the Queens uſed to go to the foreſt of Atholl. On the top of the rock of *Fonn-a-vuic*, is a large round caſtle, which, from its high and inacceſſible ſituation, muſt have been very ſtrong.

In the N. W. corner of Lochtummel, there is a ſmall iſland, partly artificial, on which Duncan Ravar M'Donald, the chief

of the Clan-Donnachie, or Robertſons, built a ſtrong houſe and a garden, which gave the name of *Port-an-eilein*, or the Fort of the Iſland, to that place. Within leſs than half a mile above Port-an-eilein, is Grenich, i. e. *Grian-fhaich*, or *Grian-acha*, the Field of the Sun. Here are the remains of a very extenſive Druidical work: A large circular wall, either a caſtle, or the foundation of a very large cairn, with ſmall cairns innumerable, on the barren ground above it, which were probably graves. About a mile to the northward of theſe, is a large cairn, that appears only to have been begun, the circumference being laid of great ſtones, and a parcel of leſſer ones thrown within it. It is probable, that it was ſtopped by the progreſs Chriſtianity then made.

About two miles to the N. W. of this work, are, a number of cairns, but of a different kind; being the cairns of the Suaineart men, who came to plunder Atholl, about 200 years ago, and were killed above Boheſpie, to a man, after having had their bard ſhot acroſs the river, a mile above Blair, from whom the ford is calted *Ath-baird-ſuainidh*, to this day. It would ſeem, that, of old, the erecting cairns, or heaps of ſtones, over the graves of the dead, was one of the ways they had, of ſecuring them from the wolves. The cuſtom remained till of late, not only of raiſing heaps, where one was buried, but even where one died, though buried elſewhere. Into thoſe heaps, it was reckoned a duty on paſſengers, to throw a ſtone. Hence the proverb, "Were I dead, you would not throw a "ſtone into my cairn;" that is to ſay, You have not ſo much friendſhip for me.

On the ſouth ſide of the hill, and north end of Lochgarry, lies *Dail-an-ſpideil*, i. e. the Plain of the Hoſpital. Here, in all probability, there was formerly a houſe of entertainment, to ſupply the place of an inn; and poſſibly too, ſupported by knights, or ſome religious order. There was another *ſpideil*, at the foot of the Grampian mountains, on the Marr road.

Dail-na-cardoch

Dail-na-cardoch is the Dale of the Smith's Shop, or rather of the Iron-work; *Dail-na-mein*, is the Plain of the Mineral. Near theſe, and along the ſide of the hill, down to Blair, are ſtill to be ſeen the holes, wherein they melted the iron-ore. At that time, the country was covered with wood of various kinds, eſpecially of Scots fir; the roots of which are ſtill dug up for fire-wood.

A gun-ſhot above the church of Strowan, on the S. W. bank of the Garry, is *Tom-an-tich-mhoir*, the Hill of the Great Houſe, a ſmall ſquare riſing ground, partly artificial; and ſurrounded with a ditch, or foſs, ſaid to have been raiſed by Allan Dirip, one of the family of Keppoch. In the church-yard of Strowan, there is a large obeliſk, on which a croſs is cut. At Pitagown, on the weſt ſide of the Bruir, is one large ſtone ſtanding, and two or three lying by it, which probably formed a Druidical temple. On the Minigeog road, above Blair, is *Carn-mhic ſhimi, (vic himi)*, or Lovat's Cairn, (properly the Cairn of the Son of Simon,) who came to plunder the country, and fell there.

Atholl houſe being in good repair, and well furniſhed, notwithſtanding the high antiquity of great part of it, does not come properly under the preſent articles.——Suffice it, therefore, to obſerve, that, till the year 1747, or later, it was about three ſtories higher, than it is at preſent, and was fortified with many Gothic turrets and battlements, mounted with guns.

Natural Curioſities,—To the eaſt of Atholl-houſe, there is a deep pool, with a rock in it, whence adultereſſes were of old thrown, ſewed up in a ſack, and drowned. A little above it, on the eaſt bank, and oppoſite to a curious hermitage, on the weſt bank, and in ſight of the highway, is a pretty caſcade. On the weſt ſide of Beinn-glo, are Carn-torcy (torky) and Coire-

Coire-thorey, (horey), i. e. the hill and the hollow of boars; two of the many places, that have had their names from the wild boars, At ſome diſtance from theſe, is Coir-fhiann, (-iann) or the hollow of the army, or, of Fingal and his heroes. In this part of the foreſt too, is Tom-na-croiche, or the Gallows-hill; and Pol-nam-ban, or the pool into which bad women were thrown. On Airgead-bheann, a part of Beinn-glo, there are ſtones, that ſhine, as if they had been vitrified, and give it the appearance of a volcano; which probably give the name of Airgead-bheann, or the ſilver mountain, to this pinnacle of Bein-glo. On the ſouth ſide of Beinn-glo is a very remarkable cave. It is narrow at the mouth, then turns very wide, afterwards narrow again, and then deſcends deeper, than ever any perſon had the courage to venture. The ſound of water is heard in it at all times; but there is a brook, that can be turned into it at pleaſure; and when that is done, it is reported, the people of a village, at ſome diſtance below, hear the noiſe of water.

There is a fall on the Garry, at the weſt end of the paſs, where it is ſaid, that a good deal of fiſh were formerly taken; but which did not prevent the ſalmon from going up the river. Eas-teivil, or the fall of Tummel, is remarkable for a conſiderable height, a great weight of water, and the quantities of ſalmon formerly caught there, in wicker baſkets and with gaffs, by men, who hung in the face of the ſlippery rock, in ropes, made of birch withes. Very few ſalmon ever paſſed this fall; but now few, or none come this length. Near a mile north-weſt of the fall, is a cave in the face of a tremenduous rock, to which there is a ſingle paſſage only. In this cave, a party of the M'Gregors are ſaid to have been ſurpriſed, when under perſecution; after part of them were killed, the reſt climbed into a tree, that grew out of the face of the rock; upon which, their purſuers cut their arms, and precipi-

tated

tated them to the bottom. There is a conſiderable fall on the Bruir, near half a mile above the highway, which makes a very grand appearance, when there is a proper quantity of water.

North-eaſt of the fall of Bruir, is Elrig, i. e. Iaoth-leirg, or the incloſed field, the field of a multitude, or of danger. The meaning intended probably is, the ſurrounded or incloſed field. There are many places of this name amongſt our hills. Their ſituation is, a riſing ground, an open and pretty plain hill around it. On this riſing ground, the king, the chieftain, or principal perſon, with his friends, arms, and hounds, took his ſtation; while his people, alſo armed, gathering the deer into his ſight, formed a circle round them. Then the hounds were let looſe, the arrows let fly, and the men, who formed the circle, wounded and killed many of the deer, with their ſwords, when attempting to make their eſcape. It is confidently aſſerted, that in Duke James's time, John Robertſon, Eſq. of Eaſtertyre, and John Stewart in Blair-Atholl, cut, each of them, a deer in two, by a ſingle ſtroke of their broad ſwords. They were both remarkable for ſtrength and activity. Several of their children are yet alive.——South-eaſt of Elerig, betwixt it and Blair, lies Craig-urrard. *Craig* ſignifies a rock, *ard*, a height, and *ur*, either heath or fire. It is probable, it was ſo called, from fire, uſed in that conſpicuous place, either for ſignals, or for a religious purpoſe. Glen-mairc, is the Glen of Horſes. The ſides of it conſiſt of high and ſteep precipices. In the late Duke's time, a great quantity of rocks fell down the one ſide of it, with ſuch force, that ſome of them went a good way up the oppoſite ſide. About the ſame time and place, a vaſt wreath of ſnow fell upon a herd of deer, and ſmothered them. This was known, from their bones being found there, when the ſnow was diſſolved.

Dreſs.

Dreſs —— The ladies and gentlemen generally dreſs as in the low country; though, when at home, ſome of the gentlemen wear the country dreſs; which is, a bonnet, a ſhort coat, a little kilt, or philebeg, tartan hoſe, and a plaid; but the trouſe and belted plaid never recovered their place ſince 1745. Some, of both ſexes, wear the Lowland dreſs. Many of the young people wear Engliſh cloth, cotton, prints, &c.

Schools. —— There is a pariſh ſchool at Blair; the maſter of which, has a ſalary of L. 10 paid by the heritors, and 100 merks Scots paid out of the biſhop-rents. For the reſt, he depends upon the emoluments of the ſchool, and ſome pariſh dues. There are alſo 3 charity ſchools in the pariſh; to the maſter of one of which, the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, pay L. 10, to another L. 7, and to a third, L. 4, *per annum*. Theſe united pariſhes have no benefit from the labours of any itinerant clergyman, or catechiſt; but many, from other pariſhes hear divine ſervice in the churches here.

Advantages and Diſadvantages. —— Till of late, the great extent of hills belonging to it, was a general advantage to the country, with reſpect to their cattle of all kinds; but much of it is now getting into the hands of a few individuals. The air of the country is very healthful. —— Two veins of lime-ſtone run through the country from N. E. to S. W. and a third has appeared in one place. —— The Duke and Mr Robertſon of Lude, have marle on their property. —— The ſoil in general is good, and when the ſeaſons are favourable, is prolific. On the other hand, we have a great deal of cold and froſty weather, which muſt be unfavourable to the growth of vegetables, and even of animals. On the level ground, near the Garry, fogs and hoar froſts are very pernicious to potatoes,

tatoes, peaſe, and barley; nor do the oats eſcape. The pariſhes are very far from the market towns; ſo that carriage is very expenſive, which prevents many things from being ſent to market, that would otherwiſe be productive. It alſo prevents the burning of coals, though fuel is at preſent very troubleſome to get, and is daily becoming more ſo. Some kinds of mechanic arts are much on the decline. Since the diſuſe of arms, there is ſcarcely a tolerable ſmith to be met with. The caſe is nearly the ſame with the ſhoemakers, who are likely to be extirpated; becauſe, it ſeems, that there are laws, that will not ſuffer any hides to be dreſſed in the country, even though they ſhould pay full duty. The tanner, therefore, both buys and ſells at his own prices; which, joined to the diſtance, leaves the people very ill ſhod.—The being deprived of ſalmon is a great loſs to the country.——It is no ſmall diſadvantage, to ſuch as have any correſpondents at a diſtance, that there is no poſt-office nearer than Dunkeld. There ought to be one eſtabliſhed at Blair-Atholl. The people of this, and of the neighbouring pariſhes, ſuffer many inconveniencies by the want of it. They muſt not only pay for the letters they receive, but for thoſe they put into the poſt-office. And a great number of letters, that would be paid for, if the office were nearer, are returned to the general poſt-office, becauſe thoſe, to whom they are directed, cannot afford time to travel ſo far for them, upon an uncertainty, and others do not chuſe to advance money for letters to obſcure people, whom they may have difficulty to find out. The hurt done to the linen yarn, by the cotton trade, has been already remarked: And, upon the whole, it muſt be allowed to be a great diſadvantage, to any country, to be very far from markets, courts of law, and good towns, where proper education can be had. For to theſe a great part of the produce of the country will go, never to return; eſpecially when they ſend no commodities thither. That the Highlands have gone

backwards, inſtead of improving like other countries, ſince their kings removed to the low countries, and thence to London, might be ſhown by many undeniable proofs; and the rich living, in diſtant places, muſt have the ſame effect. Anderſmas market, the iron works, the number of forts, the Queen's road, the places for executing juſtice, the places for horſe-races, &c. &c. clearly ſhew this. But theſe things fall more properly to be obſerved, in the ſtatiſtical account of the Hebrides, and of the pariſhes in the weſtern coaſt of Scotland, where theſe diſadvantages muſt be felt, ſtill more ſenſibly *.

* It muſt be acknowledged, at the ſame time, that formerly, there was much leſs ſecurity for the perſons and the property of the people, than at preſent. Of this, a memorable inſtance occurs in this very diſtrict. One of the Atholl family, (ſee Leſlie's Hiſt. p. 300) having taken Donald of the Iſles; was ſo elated with the exploit, that he put the figure of a man in chains, in his coat of arms. In revenge for this, the Macdonalds made an hoſtile incurſion into this part of Perthſhire, burnt, (as tradition ſays), the church of Blair, and carried the Earl and Counteſs of Atholl, priſoners with them, into the Hebrides.

NUMBER XLII.

PARISH OF CARESTON.

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

By the Rev. MR. ANDREW GRAY.

Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.

THE antient name of this pariſh was Caraldſton, probably derived from a monument erected to the memory of Carril, a hero celebrated in the poems of Oſſian; ſome veſtiges of which, (3 large ſtones ſtanding on an end, about a mile and a half to the eaſt of the church), ſtill remain. It is now contracted into Careſton.——It is ſituated in the county of Angus, 9 miles north-eaſt of Forfar the county town, 4 miles from Brechin, and 12 from Montroſe. It lies within the bounds of the preſbytery of Brechin, and the ſynod of Angus and Mearns. Its form is very nearly an oblong ſquare, 3 miles in length, and about 1 in breadth. The appearance of the country is beautiful, well cultivated, lying with a gentle ſlope from north to ſouth. No part of it is rocky, hilly, or mountainous.——The ſoil is generally deep and fertile, about one half on a gravelly bottom, and the other half on a red clay, or mortar. The air is exceeding fine, free, and healthful.——At preſent there are no prevailing diſtempers; it is ſaid, however, that before the ground was drain-

ed and cultivated, agues were very frequent, in ſo much, that in the ſpring, it was with difficulty the farmers could carry on their work. But now there is ſcarcely any ſuch diſtemper known or felt in this place. Fevers were formerly pretty frequent, and carried off ſeveral. But they now occur but ſeldom.

Rivers.——There are two rivers which run through this pariſh: the South-Eſk, and the Norin; both of which run on a gravelly bottom. The water of Norin, in particular, is remarkable for its purity and clearneſs. The South-Eſk riſes to a great height, and at times overflows its banks to ſuch a degree, that the greateſt attention is requiſite every year, to raiſe bulwarks, in order to prevent it from covering the adjacent grounds on every ſide. The Norin, though conſiderably ſmaller than the Eſk, frequently comes down with ſuch impetuoſity, that the low grounds, through which it runs, are often greatly hurt by it; which obliges the tenants to uſe every precaution, to keep it within its banks. Theſe two rivers join one another in the ſouthern part of this pariſh. They have both their ſources in the Grampian hills.——There is no regular fiſhing with the net in this pariſh; but there is, in the Eſk, plenty of ſalmon, ſalmon-trout, and burn trout taken with the rod; and, in the Norin, very fine burn trout.

Produce.——A variety of culinary plants, &c. are raiſed in this pariſh. There are likewiſe a vaſt variety of trees, ſuch as aſh, elm, plane, birch, beech, oak, cheſnut, poplar, lime, &c. and a great number of firs of every kind. There are excellent fruit trees of different ſorts; and ſome very beautiful lime trees, not inferior, perhaps, to any in the iſland.

Conſiderable numbers of black cattle, (above 400), are reared

reared every year, and alſo about 40 horſes. The value of the horſes may be reckoned, from L. 15 to L. 20, or L. 25 each. The price of cattle, when fattened, is generally from 5s to 5s 6d. per ſtone, and milk cows about the ſame. Other kinds of black cattle, are valued in proportion to the ſtate they are in, when purchaſed,—to their age, and the particular purpoſe, for which they are bought. The weight of the black cattle, reared and fattened, generally runs from 18 to 40 ſtone a head; and ſome, which are highly fed, will be near 50 ſtone. The quality of the beef is exceeding good. Very few ſheep are bred, except for family uſe.

Population.—It is difficult to aſcertain the ancient ſtate of the population of this pariſh, as no regular regiſter was kept till the year 1714. The only conjecture, that can be formed, reſpecting the number of pariſhioners, ariſes from the number of tokens, ſtruck for the uſe of communicants, in the year 1709, when this pariſh was under the care of an Epiſcopal clergyman, which number was 200 *. In the year 1716, the firſt preſbyterian miniſter was ſettled: And there was, at the ſame time, a very numerous meeting of Epiſcopalians, or Nonjurors; which meeting was made up of the diſaffected in this, and the neighbouring pariſhes. This meeting continued till the year 1746, when it was entirely diſſolved. It appears from a note, in the ſeſſion records, that, during the continuance of this Epiſcopal meeting, there were many parents in the pariſh, of that perſuaſion, who never applied to the ſeſſion-clerk, to have their children's names regiſtered, nor paid any dues to him. However, upon examining the liſt of baptiſms,

* To double the number of tokens, would be too much, as it might be expected that many would come from other pariſhes, to the ſacrament at Careſton.

baptiſms, recorded during that period, the number, at an average, may be reckoned at leaſt nine; which, by making allowance for the diſaffected, that ſought no enrolment of heir children, will confirm the conjecture, that the number of perſons in the pariſh was formerly greater. With reſpect to the ſtate of the population, for ſome time paſt, the number has rather diminiſhed; there not being, at preſent, more than 260 perſons, young and old, of which 132 are males, and 128 females; whereas the return to Dr Webſter was 269 ſouls. The average of births annually does not exceed ſix. The average of burials may be reckoned at ſix for theſe twenty years back; but exactneſs here cannot be expected, becauſe there are many, who die in this pariſh, that are buried in other pariſhes; and many, that die in other pariſhes, are buried here. For theſe twenty years paſt, it is ſuppoſed, that the number of marriages, on an average, does not exceed five annually. The number of farmers amounts only to four, reſiding in the pariſh; though there are one or two, not reſiding, who farm betwixt 100 and 140 acres, in this diſtrict. The diminution of the number of farmers, is owing, to ſeveral farms being turned into one, and alſo ſeveral farms taken into the poſſeſſion of the proprietor, for the purpoſe of improvement. The number of trades people, in this pariſh, is very ſmall; only one ſhoemaker, one houſe-carpenter or wright, one weaver, one tailor, and one blackſmith. There is but one Seceder. Of Epiſcopalians, there are about nine or ten. The diminution of the population of this pariſh, is owing to the ſeveral farms, which the proprietor has in his own hands, being all turned into graſs; and, as has been mentioned, the other farms being held by fewer hands. There is alſo no encouragement given here to manufacturers and ſmall tenants; ſo that there are, at leaſt, an hun-

dred, or an hundred and fifty or ſixty perſons, fewer in the pariſh, than there were 50 years ago.

Poor.——The number of poor, is fluctuating. At preſent, they do not exceed 4 or 5. The collections and funds for their relief, are amply ſufficient to ſupply their wants liberally.

Church and Stipend.——The church was built in 1636, and has often been repaired. The ſtipend will not, including the glebe, exceed L. 60 *per annum*, when victual ſells at 10s *per* boll. George Skene of Skene, Eſq. is patron, and the only heritor. He commonly reſides at Careſton.

Farming.——The number of acres, in this pariſh, may be about 1500; above 200 of which, are planted with hard wood, and firs of various kinds. At an average, there are, at leaſt, 350 acres employed in raiſing corn, flax, greens, cabbages, and turnips. The farms, in this pariſh, are all divided into ten equal parts, the one half in tillage, under crop, and the other half laid down with clover and rye-graſs. The ordinary rotation obſerved, is five years in tillage, and five in graſs. The firſt crop, after breaking up their fields, is oats; the ſecond, barley; the third, oats; the fourth, turnips, potatoes, cabbage, and peaſe; and the fifth year, the field is laid down with barley and graſs ſeeds. They ſow ſometimes wheat, and flax, as interim crops; but theſe are not reckoned in the ordinary courſe of cropping; though, it is obſervable, that the crop of flax is not allowed to ſtand in the room of a green crop, which can, by no means, be omitted. The lint is ordinarily ſown the firſt crop in the rotation.

The pariſh is not only able to ſupply itſelf with the neceſſary proviſions of meal malt, butter, and cheeſe, and poultry of all kinds, but there can be ſpared from it, annually, a very

conſiderable

conſiderable quantity of grain of all kinds; a number of fed cattle for the butcher; and ſome few fed ſheep. Butter and cheeſe are alſo ſold to a conſiderable amount. From 60 to near 70 acres are annually ſown with flax. The ground, in the poſſeſſion of the proprietor, is moſtly in clover and rye-graſs, (about 20 acres excepted;) and, as it is all incloſed and ſubdivided, it generally lets to graziers and others, at 20s, 25s, 30s, and 46s, per acre. The amount of graſs fields, in the proprietor's hand, and what the tenants have laid down in graſs, on their farms, may be reckoned at leaſt ſeven or eight hundred acres. The number of acres in natural graſs does not exceed one hundred. Of boggy ground, there are not forty acres. There is no part of the pariſh in common; and the number of acres of waſte ground does not exceed thirty.

Antiquities.—There are two artificial mounts in the pariſh, about 200 yards diſtant from each other, which are commonly called *Laws*; and tradition ſays, that one of theſe mounts was the uſual place where courts of juſtice were held, and judgement was given; and that the other was the place, where the law was put in execution, when criminals were capitally convicted. Others imagine, that they were places of obſervation, on which fires were kindled, at the approach of an enemy.

School.—The ſchoolmaſter has a ſalary of L. 10 yearly, excluſive of perquiſites; and he alſo officiates as ſeſſion-clerk, for which he has a fee of 20 merks Scotch. The other emoluments are inconſiderable, on account of the ſmall number of pariſhioners. He has likewiſe a good ſchool-houſe and garden, with about two acres of ground, at a low rent, from Mr Skene. The number of ſcholars varies, as in other

places

places, ſeldom above thirty, and very often below 20. Engliſh, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping, navigation, and aſtronomy, are the branches taught here; but no Latin.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations—There are ſeveral diſadvantages in this pariſh. A ſcarcity of fuel is one; as coal, the only fuel uſed here, cannot be got nearer than the port of Montroſe, which is 12 miles diſtant; and there, coal is ſold at a very high price, (8s and 8s 6d. per boll,) on account of the high duty laid on that article, at that and the other ports on the north coaſt of this iſland. Every boll, or 72 ſtones, coſts 12s. to the conſumer.——Montroſe is alſo the neareſt port for exporting grain, which, being a long carriage, is of conſiderable diſadvantage to the farmer.——Lime and marle are the only means of improvement in this pariſh, and theſe are both to drive a conſiderable diſtance. Good lime cannot be had nearer than 12 miles, and marle 7 miles. There is indeed lime to be had nearer, but of an inferior quality.

This pariſh has alſo its advantages. The road to the port of Montroſe, is very good, ſmooth, and level, without the interruption of hills, and is ſeldom interrupted by ſtorms in the winter time; ſo that the communication is free and open at all ſeaſons.——This pariſh being contiguous to Brechin, has a regular communication by poſt, every day of the week. In Brechin there is alſo a ready market for proviſions of all kinds, which can be ſpared from this place. And, in return, may be had every other article, both for the neceſſity and conveniency of families.——The ſoil being good, and the climate temperate, give the advantage of good grain, which ordinarily comes to full maturity, without being hurt by the early froſts, or blaſting ſtorms in autumn; ſo that the farmer has the advantage of a true crop.——This pariſh has the advantage of being excellently well watered, not only from the two rivers

already mentioned, but alſo by a number of fine ſprings, from which iſſue great abundance of exceeding fine water in almoſt every field.——There is plenty of freeſtone.——The number of ploughs will not exceed 9 or 10; ſome of which are made for 4, and ſome for 2 horſes, as occaſion requires. About 20 carts, or at moſt 24, are uſed for the purpoſe of huſbandry. ——————There is no inn, or even alehouſe in the pariſh.—— The tenants have their leaſes on very reaſonable terms; are happy in their intercourſe with one another, and enjoy in a conſiderable degree the bleſſings of ſocial life.

NUMBER XLIII.

PARISH OF KINNELL.

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

By the Rev. MR. CHAPLIN.

Name, Situation, &c.

IT is ſaid, that Kinnell ſignifies the *head of the pool*, the church and manſe being placed near a deep pool in the water of Lunan. It is ſituated in the county of Forfar, preſbytery of Aberbrothock, and ſynod of Angus and Mearns.——The ſoil is of two kinds. One is clay, and naturally wet; the other light, producing good crops in a moiſt ſeaſon, but much parched when it is dry. The air is healthy. No ſickneſs prevails to any extent. Sometimes in the month of February there are fevers, but chiefly among the poor, in conſequence of their low diet, damp houſes, &c.——There are no mineral ſprings, lakes, or woods in the pariſh. The water of Lunan runs through a part of it, in which, are excellent burn trouts, which are in perfection in the months of June and July.

Population, &c.——The antient ſtate of its population cannot now be known. The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 761 ſouls; but, this is ſuppoſed to be a miſtake, as, till

within theſe 25 years, they never exceeded 600. They now amount to 830. The increaſe is owing to the tenants having uſe for more hands, being buſied incloſing their farms, and improving them with lime and marle. There are likewiſe a number of ſmall poſſeſſions, which give great encouragement to population. There are no villages, nor any uninhabited houſes in the pariſh. At an average for the laſt 10 years, there have been 6 marriages, 20 baptiſms, and 12 deaths yearly.——There are only 3 heritors, none of whom reſide.

Rent, Tenants, &c.——The valued rent is L. 2,700 Scots. The real rent about L. 1,700 ſterling. There are 18 greater, and 50 ſmaller tenants. Some of the greater pay from L. 50, to L. 150 *per annum*. The ſmaller, who are generally tradeſmen, pay from L. 5 to L. 15 yearly.——There 2,000 arable acres, and from 4, to 500 of muir. The acre is let from 10s to 15s.——There are 160 horſes, and about 600 black-cattle: No ſheep.——The principal crops are oats and barley; ſome peaſe and beans; a great deal of clover and rye-graſs. A conſiderable quantity of flax, and ſome wheat, are alſo raiſed. Turnips and potatoes are now a general crop all over the country. There is much more grain raiſed, than is neceſſary for the ſupport of the inhabitants. There was nothing remarkable in the ſtate of the pariſh, in the years 1782, and 1783; meal was dear, but there was no real ſcarcity.

Church, &c.——The church was built in 1766, and the manſe in 1726. All the inhabitants of the pariſh very regularly attend the eſtabliſhed church, except one Seceder, and three of the Epiſcopal perſuaſion. The king is patron. The living conſiſts of 48 bolls meal, 32 bolls bear, and L. 27:14:6 in money, beſides a garden, and a glebe of ſix acres.

Schools.

School.—The legal ſalary is 200 merks Scots. Perquiſites are, for a marriage, 2s 6d. for the baptiſm of a child whoſe parents are above the rank of cottagers, 1s. from cottagers, half a merk Scots; and for certificates, 4d. For teaching Engliſh, 1s, per quarter; for writing and arithmetic, 1s 6d; and for Latin, 2s. In the ſummer, there are from 30 to 40 ſcholars, and, in the winter 50 and upwards.

Poor.—There are, at preſent, 8 perſons on charity, at 4s. each per month; beſides ſeveral others, who get cloaths, ſhoes, and coals, once a year. The ſum ſpent yearly for their ſupport, is about L. 26 ſterling, ariſing from weekly collections, ſeat rents in the church, and the intereſt of ſome money belonging to them. The Seſſion is very attentive to their neceſſities, allows none of them to beg, and pays the ſchoolmaſter for teaching their children. But a great many beggars, from diſtant places, infeſt the pariſh continually.——It has been ſaid, that all the pariſhes in Scotland, except two or three in the Highlands, can maintain their own poor at home:—Why, then, are they allowed to wander about, oppreſſing the country at large?

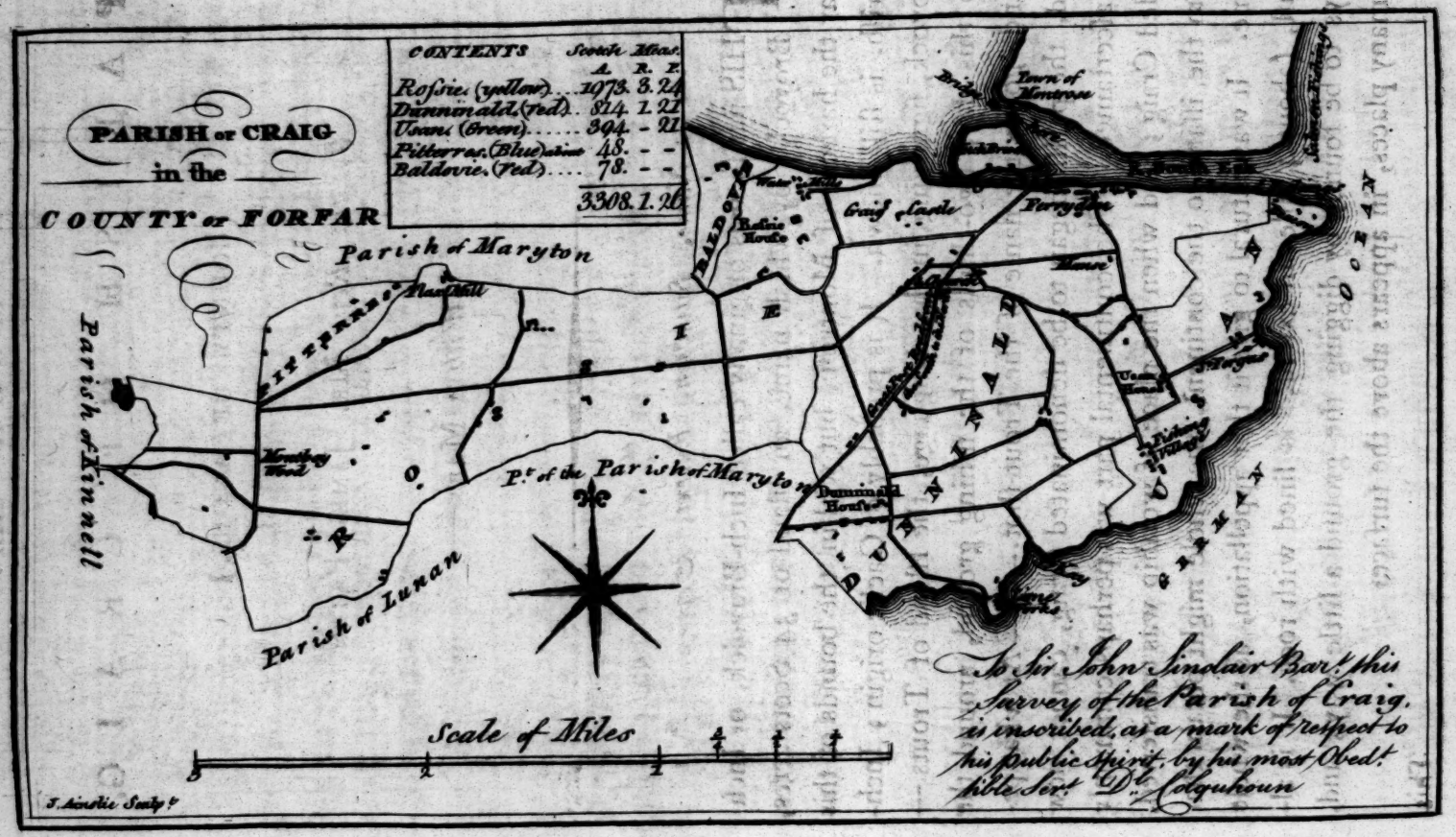
Antiquities.—There was a mound of earth lately opened in the pariſh, and ſeveral human bones found in it of a large ſize. There was alſo an urn, containing burnt human bones. The outſide of it was ornamented clay, and the inſide charcoal. It is probable, that the burning of the dead was confined to the chief ranks, as being both troubleſome and expenſive. When burnt, they were put into earthen urns, as among the Greeks and Romans, and a barrow of earth thrown up in proportion to their rank.——Buchanan ſpeaks of a battle, in the reign of James II. between the Lindſays and Ogilvies, about the year 1443. Tradition adds, that the battle was fought near this

this place, and that a man, of the name of Irons, was ſlain in the purſuit. On account of his extraordinary ſize, his boot and ſpur were taken off, and hung up in an aiſle adjoining to this church, belonging to the family of Airly. The boot, in a courſe of years, would fall down and periſh; but the ſpur ſtill remains on the wall, covered with ruſt. It meaſures 8 inches in length, and 4½ in breadth, and the rowel is as large as a crown piece.

In 1790, a boy, going from ſchool, found, under a bit of ſlate, a conſiderable number of ſilver pennies; ſome of them were in good preſervation, conſidering how long they have been under ground, and have the following inſcription, *Ed. R. Angl. Dns. Hyb.* The reverſe is, on ſome of them, *Civitas London.* on others, *Civitas Cantor.* or *Civitas Dublinenſis.*

Miſcellaneous Obſervations——The roads are tolerable.——The ſtatute-labour is ſometimes exacted in kind, and ſometimes commuted. There are no ſtone bridges in the pariſh, no turnpikes, no ſervices of any conſequence; no poſt-office. The neareſt is Aberbrothock, about 4 miles diſtant.——No peat, ſome bad turf; but plenty of coal, from Aberbrothock, for 6s the boll, which is 70 ſtones weight.

General Character.——The people are ſober, regular, and induſtrious. No emigrations, no baniſhments, no murders no ſuicides in the memory of the oldeſt. There are two ale houſes in the pariſh, which have no bad effects on their morals. There is a conſiderable alteration to the better, within theſe 20 years, in dreſs, manner of living, houſes, &c.


PARISH or CRAIG
in the
COUNTY or FORFAR
CONTENTS Scots Mens. A. R. P.
Rossie (yellow) ... 1073. 3. 24
Dunninald (red) ... 814. 1. 21
Usans (Green) ... 394. - 21
Pitterras (Blue) ... 48. - -
Baldovie (Red) ... 78. - -
3308. 1. 26
Parish of Maryton
Parish of Kinnell
Parish of Lunan
Pt of the Parish of Maryton
Town of Montrose
Craig Castle
Ferryden
Dunninald House
Scale of Miles
To Sir John Sinclair Bart this Survey of the Parish of Craig, is inscribed, as a mark of respect to his public spirit, by his most Obed.t humble Serv.t D.r Colquhoun
J. Aitchie Sculp.t

NUMBER XLIV.

PARISH OF CRAIG.

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

By the Rev. MR. JAMES PATON.

With a MAP.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THIS pariſh was originally called Inch-Brayoick, or Inch-Broyock; by which name, an iſland of 34 Scots acres, near the harbour of Montroſe, but within the bounds of this pariſh, is ſtill known. It is probably of Gaelic origin; Inch-broyock, ſignifying, in that language, the Iſland of Trouts.—To this day, two-thirds of the fiſhing ground, around the iſland, go by the name of the Trout-ſhot.——At what period, the pariſh began to be denominated Craig, cannot now be aſcertained. The continental part was perhaps commonly called Craig; and when the place of worſhip was transferred, from the iſland to the continent, the whole might obtain that name. It was natural to give it that appellation, as the whole coaſt, (about 4 miles in extent,) is lined with rock. It is always to be found, by digging the ground a little way; and, in many places, in appears above the ſurface.

This

This pariſh is ſituated in the preſbytery of Brechin, in the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, and ſhire of Forfar. It is between 5 and 6 miles long, and its greateſt breadth is ſomewhat more than 2. To the ſouth and weſt it is conſiderably elevated, being about 400 feet above the level of the ſea. It contains, in all, 3308 : 1 : 26 acres, Scots meaſure; the whole of which (a few hundred acres excepted) is arable. The ſoil, is, in general, very good, and produces excellent crops.

Rivers, High Grounds.—The Southeſk, after croſſing a baſon of water, about 8 or 9 miles in circumference, (which is filled by the tide twice every 24 hours) divides this pariſh from that of Montroſe. It afterwards falls into the ſea, at the eaſtern extremity of this pariſh.—On the coaſt, Dunninald is the higheſt ground, Govanhill in the middle, and Pittaris hill, and Mount-bay to the Weſt; from all which there are very extenſive and pleaſant proſpects. Mount-Bay was formerly called the King's ſeat, Red-caſtle, in the neighbourhood, having formerly been a royal reſidence.

Climate, Diſeaſes, Mineral Springs, &c.—The air, in a ſituation ſo elevated, is pure; the climate generally healthy.—The moſt common diſeaſes are fevers and conſumptions; there are ſome inſtances of dyſenteries, and rheumatiſms; agues are very rare, and there are ſome few caſes of epilepſy and of lunacy. A ſingular kind of diſtemper, called the *louping ague*, has ſometimes made its appearance in this pariſh. The patients, when ſeized, have all the appearances of madneſs; their bodies are variouſly diſtorted; they run, when they find an opportunity, with amazing ſwiftneſs, and over dangerous paſſes; and, when confined to the houſe, they jump, and climb in an aſtoniſhing manner, till their ſtrength be exhauſted.—Cold bathing is found to be the moſt effectual remedy.——

There

There is a ſpring in Roſſie, ſtrongly impregnated with iron; which is drank, and, it is ſaid, with good effect, by perſons of relaxed habits.

Tides and Fiſheries.—The courſe of the tide, on this coaſt, is north and ſouth, the flood coming from the north. ——In this pariſh, there are two pretty large fiſhing villages, Ferryden and Uſan; the firſt, contains about 38 families, and the other 20; all of whom are fiſhermen, or perſons connected with them. Thoſe of Ferryden employ ſix boats, 4 men to each boat; and, in the ſummer ſeaſon, 3 barks for the coal trade. The fiſhermen of Uſan have 3 boats, and 6 men to each boat. Laſt war, about 24 men from theſe villages, and the reſt of the pariſh, ſerved on board his Majeſty's navy, and a few in the army.——The fiſh caught on the coaſt are cod, ling, haddocks, ſkate, flounders, and turbot. There is alſo great abundance of muſcles, lobſters, and crabs. The common price of white fiſh here, may be calculated at 3 farthings per pound. The ſalmon fiſhings on the Southeſk, belonging to two proprietors in this pariſh, were formerly very productive. Thoſe of Roſſie, ſome ſeaſons, yielded 10,000 ſalmon, and grilſes; but, ſince the year 1781, they have fallen off greatly. The barrel of ſalmon ſold, 20 years ago, for about 3 guineas, and the freſh ſalmon for 2s. per Dutch ſtone; but, of late, the prices have increaſed to near double.——A few years ago, a quantity of oyſters were brought from the Firth of Forth, and put down in a place where they were likely to breed. But, there is ſome reaſon to ſuſpect, though the point is not yet aſcertained, that oyſters cannot thrive in the neighbourhood of muſcles.

Progreſs of Improvement.—About 60 years ago, this pariſh was, in a great meaſure, open, ſcarcely a ſingle field being

incloſed. The late Mr Scot of Dunninald, and his brother, Mr Scot of Roſſie, were the firſt who began to incloſe their property, in 1730. Thorn hedges, and hedge-row trees were firſt tried; but this mode being found tedious and expenſive, earthen fences, with furze or whins on the top, were adopted. But theſe, after a trial of many years, being found inſufficient, the gentlemen have begun to incloſe with ſtone dykes, or walls; and, if they perſevere, with the ſame ſpirit with which they have begun, (which there is reaſon to believe will be the caſe,) in a few years, the whole fields of the pariſh will be incloſed in that manner.

Roads.——Formerly, the king's high-way, which paſſes through this pariſh, was very inſufficient, and, in the winter, ſeaſon, almoſt impaſſable. But, about the year 1750, by the application of the ſtatute labour, an excellent road betwixt Ferryden and Arbroath, was begun, and in a few years completed. This year, a new turnpike road, a little to the weſt of the other, through this pariſh, was begun, (by a tract more circuitous indeed, but deemed to be more level, and commodious for travellers,) and will ſoon be finiſhed. By means of the ſtatute labour, now generally commuted, we begin to enjoy good private roads, of which we ſtood in great need.

Wood.—About the beginning of this century, there was little wood in this corner; but within theſe 70 or 80 years, a good deal has been planted, and the pariſh may now be ſaid to be pretty well wooded; particularly in the waſte part of it, where a great many acres have been incloſed and planted.

Agriculture—— About 60 years ago, Meſſrs. Scotts began gradually to make conſiderable improvements in the cultivation of their lands. They had plenty of lime within the pa-

riſh;

riſh; but ſeveral years elapſed, before the reſt of the country began to follow their example. Of late, however, ſtill farther improvements have been made, particularly by a quicker rotation of green crops: The lands are kept in better heart, and produce more plentiful crops than formerly.

Price of Land, and Rent.—Rather better than a century ago, Patrick Scott, Eſq. bought, (with the exception of two ſmall pieces of property,) the whole pariſh, for about L. 10,000 ſterling; and, within theſe 8 years, that property, viz. Roſſie, including Craig, and Dunninald, excluſive of the eſtate of Uſan, was ſold for L. 64,000.——About the year 1730, the average rent of land here, was about 4s 6d. whereas all the farms, let within theſe few years, give from L. 1 : 5 to L. 1 : 10, per acre.——The valued rent of the whole pariſh, is L. 4275 : 4 : 1 Scots. The real rent, including the produce of lime, and of ſalmon fiſhings, is above L. 4000 ſterling.

Services.——The meagre look, the tattered garment, the wretched hovel, the ill-cultivated and unproductive field, with the other miſerable effects of feudal tyranny, and the ſure effects of perſonal ſervices, are curſes, from which this part of the country, has long ſince been generally delivered. The only relict of this kind here, is, the thirlage to a mill, to which the tenants, upon one of the eſtates are ſubjected; but which is ſoon to be removed.

Ferry Boats.—By the regiſter of the kirk-ſeſſion here, it appears, that, upon the ſabbath day, eſpecially in time of public worſhip, no boats were permitted to croſs at Ferryden.—Whereas now, they are more employed on that, than on any other day of the week;—the liberty of modern times having aſſumed, or being allowed, a ſlacker rein.

Caſtles and Forts.—There were, in this pariſh, two caſtles, that of Black Jack on the ſea ſhore, formerly the reſidence of the family of Dunninald, of which, by the falling of the rock, there are harldly any remains; and the caſtle of Craig, which was demoliſhed not many years ago. At the extremity of the pariſh; to the eaſt, where the Southeſk falls into the ſea, there are the remains of an earthen fort, in the form of a ſquare; each ſide of which was about 50 feet; the walls 16 feet thick, and, formerly, as high, or higher than a man's head. Within, there was a houſe, for the purpoſe of affording ſhelter to the men, and holding ſtores or ammunition. Without the ſquare, and facing the mouth of the river, there was a breaſt-work of earth, where cannon had been planted, to defend the entrance of the river. Tradition reports, that it had been made uſe of in Oliver Cromwell's time; but whether erected by him, or in more antient times, cannot now be aſcertained. At this fort, ſome cannon were placed, ſo late as the 1745.—About 20 years ago, the town of Montroſe built, within this ſquare, a quadrangular tower, between 20 and 30 feet high, for a land-mark, to direct veſſels at ſea; and, along the ſouth ſide of the river, at a ſmall diſtance from one another, two conical towers, or pillars, were lately erected by that town, for directing veſſels, when to take the river, with ſafety.

Population.——There has been a regular and progreſſive increaſe, in the population of this pariſh, for theſe many years paſt. About a century ago, the number of ſouls was about 676. It roſe, in 1738 to 806. The report to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 935. In 1768, the number was 1264, and, on the 24th of February, 1791, it came to 1314. Of which there were,

Under

Under 10 years of age	359
Between 10 and 10	227
—— 20 and 30	214
—— 30 and 50	299
—— 50 and 70	170
—— 70 and 80	31
—— 80 and 90, and upwards	14
Total	1314

Excepting one man, who is about 91 years of age, no perſon, in this pariſh, exceeds 86. The number of males is 639, of females, 675. The number of families, 302. Prior to 1693, the average of births was about 26; about 1738, they roſe to 31. More recently, the births, deaths, and marriages were as follows:

Years	Births	Deaths	Marriages.
1768	52	25	13
1778	50	16	13
1788	45	25	16
Average of theſe years	49	22	14

Poor.--The average amount of collections for the poor, from the year 1653 to 1758, incluſive, was about 2s 10d. per week. In the year 1760, when the preſent incumbent was ſettled, there was only about L. 83 laid out at intereſt. The collections have ſince increaſed conſiderably, and, for ſome years paſt, have been, at a medium, 12s weekly.——Some years ago, the funds received, from Alexander Arbuthnot, Eſq. Commiſſioner of the cuſtoms at Edinburgh, an addition of L. 100, and lately, from a proprietor of this pariſh, L. 50. Theſe ſums, together with former ſavings, amount now to L. 200, properly ſecured at an intereſt of 5 per cent.

The

The number of weekly penſioners is 12. The weekly penſion is 12s 9d. beſides conſiderable ſums given from time to time, to other poor, not upon the liſt, and the purchaſe of coals for all the poor annually. It may here be remarked, that, beſides the private benefactions of reſiding heritors to the poor, they derive much benefit from the circumſtance of ſuch families being of our own communion, and attending the eſtabliſhed church, which has generally been the caſe, for a century paſt. During 40 years, and upwards, no poor have had occaſion or been allowed to beg; the pariſh being both able and willing to maintain its own poor. Many however, are apt to give liberally to ſtrolling vagrants, or ſturdy beggars, who infeſt this diſtrict and the neighbourhood; an evil ſeverely felt, and which ſtands much in need of an effectual remedy.

Church, Patronage, &c.—The patrons are the maſters of the New College of St. Andrews. The manſe was built about the year 1748; the offices in the year 1774; and an excellent garden wall, in 1788. The manſe is inconveniently ſituated; being diſtant from the church about a mile. The ſtipend is L. 42 : 4 : 5$\frac{4}{12}$, with 3 chalders victual, half meal, and half bear. The glebe conſiſts of 7 acres, including houſes and garden. The church was repaired, and almoſt new built, in the year 1760. There were, in popiſh times, 4 burial places in the pariſh. The principal one, at preſent, is in the iſland of Inchbrayock.—The inhabitants belong, with very few exceptions, to the eſtabliſhed church. In 1788, there were only 6 Seceders, and 16 Epiſcopalians.

School.——Very lately, a ſubſtantial and elegant houſe was built for the ſchoolmaſter; and his yearly ſalary was raiſed, within theſe few years, from L. 8 to L. 20.; the ſchool fees, and other perquiſites, may amount to L. 20 more. Adjoining

ing to his houſe, is a ſchool-houſe, ſufficiently large and commodious, with a ſmall garden.

Manufactures.——In the manufacturing line, there is nothing carried on here to any great extent. The reaſons may be, that the great object of purſuit, in this diſtrict, is agriculture, and that the ſituation of the pariſh, much elevated and remote from rivers, does not furniſh the water that would be requiſite for extenſive bleachfields, and for the operations of mills. There are, however, 36 weavers including apprentices, 6 carpenters, 4 maſons, 4 ſmiths, with a few ſervants of each claſs; 2 ſlaters; and one baker.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The good and juſtly celebrated Biſhop Leighton was of the family of Uſan, in this pariſh. Only one man, with his family, has emigrated from the diſtrict, for theſe ſome years paſt. The cauſe of this was, not oppreſſion, nor want of employment, nor poverty unaided; (for none of theſe evils are felt here,) but the ſpirit, which prevailed at the time, and the deluſive hope of gaining much with little labour.——There are, in this pariſh, in wheat, oats, barley, peaſe, flax, turnips, potatoes, and cabbages, about 2700 acres. Number of horſes, 183; of black cattle, 804; of ſheep, 1013.—There are 6 houſes for vending ale and ſpirits, in one of which only ale is brewed. The practice of ſmuggling foreign ſpirits, from which this coaſt is not yet free, is productive of much loſs to the public, and of many evils to individuals.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—One advantage ariſes from the nearneſs of the pariſh to Montroſe, where the inhabitants can purchaſe what they want, and ſell what they have to diſpoſe of, with little loſs of time; and, when the bridge is

built over the Southesk, (with the near prospect of which we are now flattered,) the communication will be much easier, and attended with many additional conveniences.——Another advantage is the easy access which the farmers have to lime. At Bodden, in this parish, there is a lime-work carried on to great extent; and, to that spot, all the improvements in husbandry, made in this country, is, in a great measure owing. The greatest disadvantage, is the high price of coals, owing to the heavy duty, which takes place here. This tax is much complained of, as evidently partial, impolitic, and unreasonable. A small duty laid at the pit, would yield much more to government than the present one; and the burden being laid equally upon all, would be much more easily borne, and could scarcely be objected to, on any just and reasonable grounds.

NUMBER XLV.

PARISH OF KIRKDEN.

(COUNTY OF ANGUS.)

By the Rev. MR. MILLIGAN.

Name, Situation, Extent, &c.

THE pariſh has two names, *Kirkden*, alias *Idvie*. The firſt only is in common uſe; and is evidently derived from the ſituation of the kirk and manſe, which are built in a den. It derives its other name from the barony of Idvie.—It is about 5 Engliſh miles in length, and the broadeſt part of it does not exceed 2. About the middle, for near a mile, it is very narrow.—Kirkden lies in the preſbytery of Arbroath, in the ſynod of Angus and Mearns, and in the county of Angus or Forfar. The ſoil is various. About 1200 acres are dry kindly land, mixed with ſmall ſtones, called by the farmers, a beachy ſoil. This part is, in general, ſooneſt fit for the ſeed in the ſpring; and the crop upon it is ſooneſt ripe in autumn. About 900 acres are deep dry land, and the bed is till. The remainder is a cold clay bed, and is naturally wet and ſpungy, but has been greatly improved by draining.

Air, Climate, Diſeaſes.——The air is commonly clear and ſalubrious, excepting ſometimes in the evening, about the end of April, or the beginning of May, when the wind is weſterly. In the pleaſanteſt days, and ſometimes for ſeveral days together, we ſee the fog riſing on the German Ocean, about 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon; and, even when we enjoy the moſt delightful ſunſhine, we know, that, in an hour or two, we ſhall be involved in *darkneſs*, that may almoſt be *felt*. So ſlowly does the *damp* approach, that it is often ſome hours before it reach us, after we ſee it a-coming. In general, however, the inhabitants are remarkably healthy. About 25 or 30 years ago, the ague, eſpecially in the ſpring, was ſo general, that many farmers found it difficult to ſow and harrow their lands, in the proper ſeaſon, owing to their ſervants being ſo much afflicted with it. At preſent, this diſeaſe is little known in this pariſh, or in the neighbourhood. This is perhaps owing to the draining of the grounds, the great change that has taken place in the mode of living, dreſs, &c. Every year, ſeveral children die of the ſmall pox, the prejudices againſt inoculation being ſtill very great. In vain, the patriotic Mr Dempſter provided, laſt ſeaſon, an able phyſician and proper medicines: Though inoculation, by theſe means, might have been got *gratis*, hardly one accepted the generous offer.

Rivers and Fiſh.——The Finny and Lunan, both of which riſe in the pariſh of Forfar, either paſs along, or partly interſect the pariſh of Kirkden. There is excellent burn-trout in both, which are, however, every year, much deſtroyed with the watering of flax, either in the rivulets themſelves, or in places from whence the deadly ſtreams run into them. Eels are alſo caught in the ſeaſon; and ſea fiſh are brought from the coaſt in conſiderable quantities.

Manufactures.

Manufactures.——There is hardly a houſe in the pariſh, where one or more women are not employed in ſpinning yarn, for the Oſnaburgh weavers. Many millions of yards of Oſnaburgh cloth, are, every year made in this county, of which this pariſh manufactures its proportion. The women all ſpin with both hands; and a good ſpinner can earn 3s, or 3s 6d, *per* week. Girls of 13, or 14 years of age, earn 2s, and many of them 2s 6d a week; and they reckon their board only about 1s 6d. For this reaſon, many, inſtead of going to ſervice, continue with their parents and friends, merely for the purpoſe of ſpinning, as being a more profitable employment, and, in which they enjoy more liberty. But there are many, who do not like to be ſo cloſely confined to ſpinning, and therefore go to ſervice, where only a part of their time is ſpent at the wheel. Weavers are interſperſed, at ſmall diſtances, all over the country; and moſt of them give out flax, and pay the current price for ſpinning it. Much of the flax grows at home; but great quantities are alſo brought from abroad. Till lately, the manufacturers of this neighbourhood went to Forfar or Arbroath, for the ſtamping and ſale of their webs; but now there is a market, every fortnight, for theſe purpoſes, at the neighbouring village of Letham.

Population.——On the laſt day of October 1790, the number of perſons living in the pariſh of Kirkden, properly pariſhioners, were 727; of whom there were 359 males, and 368 females.

	Males.	Females.
Below 10 years of age -	80	91
Between 10 and 20 -	98	69
—— 20 and 50 -	124	154
—— 50 and 70 -	43	47
Above 70 - -	11	6
—— 80 - -	3	1
	359	368

Thomas Lyal, Eſq. of Gardyn, the oldeſt man now living in the pariſh, was 85 years old, the 9th of October, 1790, and is yet a healthy man. A labouring man of this pariſh died laſt year, aged 92 years, and a few days. The return to Dr Webſter of the population of Kirkden, in 1755, was 563. The inhabitants have therefore encreaſed 160. The cauſe ſeems to be the flouriſhing ſtate of manufactures.

The pariſh regiſters being very inaccurately kept, no certain concluſions can be drawn from them. From 1780, to 1787, incluſive, the number of marriages were about 71, and of burials, 66.

Diviſion of the Inhabitants.—In this pariſh there are 133 families; 17 of which, conſiſt, but of two perſons each; and 2 or 3 ſolitary individuals. Of the above there are 4 reſiding heritors, 33 farmers, (perſons who have no other occupation) 26 weavers, 5 wrights, 4 taylors, 2 maſons, 2 cadgers, (fiſh-carriers,) 4 blackſmiths, 3 ſhoemakers, 6 millers, 2 creamers, (perſons who go through the pariſh, and neighbourhood, and buy butter, hens, eggs, &c. moſtly for the Dundee market,) and 19 labourers. The above are all heads of families. There are about 60 labouring ſervants, male and female; but almoſt all the females are chiefly employed in ſpinning; and there are 9 or 10 houſehold ſervants in the heritors

ritors families. Many families have no occaſion to hire ſervants, having a ſufficient number of children to perform their work. And the ſaucineſs of ſingle ſervants makes others engage cottagers, whoſe family ties make them more dependant and humble. Thus evil produces good, and pride prevents depopulation. Each of theſe married labourers has a houſe and yard; a cow maintained ſummer and winter; 52 ſtones of meal; the carriage of their coals and other fuel; and commonly, ſome ground allowed them for lint: and ſome of them have L. 5, ſome L. 6, and ſome of them L. 7 in money. Beſides theſe ſervants, reapers are engaged for harveſt; a good female ſhearer at about L. 1, and a male at about L. 1 : 6. All the inhabitants are of the eſtabliſhed religion, except the reſiding heritors, and 1 or 2 in their families, in all about a dozen, who belong to the church of England; and about 21 Antiburgher Seceders, including children.

General Character.——The inhabitants of this pariſh, with very few exceptions, are an induſtrious, civilized, and contented people. No perſon has been baniſhed from it, nor been guilty of murder, ſuicide, or any atrocious crime, within the preſent century; if we except thoſe, who, from miſtaken loyalty, followed the Pretender, in 1745.

Chriſtmas is held as a great feſtival in this neighbourhood. On that day "the ſervant is free from his maſter," and goes about viſiting his friends and acquaintance. The pooreſt muſt have beef or mutton on the table, and what they call a dinner with their friends. Many amuſe themſelves with various diverſions, particularly with ſhooting for prizes, called here *wad-ſhooting*. And many do but little buſineſs all the Chriſtmas week; the evening of almoſt every day being ſpent in amuſement. All the lower claſſes of the people ſtill obſerve the old ſtile.

Church.

Church.——The church was built in the year 1749; and the manſe was repaired, and the office houſes rebuilt in 1783. The living conſiſts of 16 bolls of meal, 6 bolls of bear, and 850 merks Scots, (L. 47 : 4 : $5\frac{4}{12}$), in money, and 6 acres of land; in all about L. 66 ſterling a year.——The Crown is patron.

School.——The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is 100 merks Scots, (L. 5 : 11 : $1\frac{4}{12}$), with ſome perquiſites which do not exceed L. 3 *per annum*. There are few ſcholars.

Poor.——The number of poor at preſent, who receive occaſional alms, is 10; but all of them have property, and earn moſt of their ſubſiſtence, except 3 old perſons. They live in houſes near their children, who are in a thriving condition. They receive out of the poors funds, the price of a boll of meal, one after another, as they require it, on applying to the elders, any Sunday after ſermon, and alſo money to buy fuel in the ſeaſon. Orphan children are boarded at the rate of L. 4 ſterling *per annum*. No perſon, properly belonging to this pariſh, is in the habit of ſtrolling about as a mendicant. Indeed, in this manufacturing country, ſuch as are able to go about and beg, are generally fit, unleſs they have infant children, to earn their bread at home, the women by ſpinning, and the men by filling pirns, (rolling up yarn upon lake reeds, cut in ſmall pieces for the ſhuttle). By experience, we have found it to be a great ſaving of our poors funds, to aid thoſe who are ſinking into poverty, before they fall too low. To ſupport the, poor we have the weekly collections and ſeat-rents of a loft, in the church, erected out of the poors money, in all about L. 15 or L. 16 *per annum*; and L. 156 lent out upon intereſt, at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ *per cent*. This fund, for theſe 16 years paſt, has been fully adequate to the demands of the poor, without

without any application to the landholders; who, about 20 years ago, were in the uſe of contributing annually a certain ſum for their relief. The poor are not only well provided for, but very well ſatisfied with the attention that is paid them.

Diviſion and Rent of Lands.——The whole extent of the pariſh is nearly 3500 acres; about 3000 of which are arable, and the remainder planted, or moor, not yet improved. It is divided among 6 proprietors, 4 of whom reſide in it. Only about a half of the pariſh is yet incloſed; but the incloſing proceeds apace; the better ſort of farmers being very ſenſible of the great advantage which may be derived from it.

There are about a dozen of perſons, including 3 proprietors, who farm from about 30 to 150 acres each. The reſt of the pariſh is divided into ſmaller portions, from 36 down to 6 acres; for there are very few families in the pariſh, who have not one, or more cows, not excepting thoſe who live partly on charity.——The rent of moſt farms, lately let in leaſe, taking the good and bad land of the farm, at an average, is 15s. One large incloſed farm, however, lately let at L. 1 the acre.——The late leaſes are, in general, for 19 years. For a crop of lint land, ſome pay L. 5, and ſome (this year) L. 6: 3, the acre. Thoſe who let the land, plough and harrow it, and carry the flax to and from the watering.—— Perſonal ſervices, thoſe badges of antient ſlavery, are ſtill partly continued, though lighter than formerly, and now limited. Several of the tenants, however, are altogether freed from them It is a pretty common thing, to pay a certain number of kain fowls. Some of the tenants are obliged to give a draught of one, or more horſes, for a ſpecified number of miles, if required; or to ſend one or more carts for coals to the proprietor, and to give, perhaps, a day of all their reapers,

in

in harveſt, upon receiving notice the evening before. The evil conſequences, which muſt reſult from this, are obvious.

Mode of Cultivation——There are 44 ploughs in the pariſh all drawn by horſes; but many of them hardly deſerve the name of ploughs; for ſeveral of thoſe, who rent about 12 or 15 acres of land, keep only one horſe, and, joining with another in the ſame ſtate, with theſe two, commonly but indifferent, horſes, they cultivate both farms. A tenant with two ploughs, and 8 ſtrong horſes, is ſuppoſed able to manage a farm of 200 acres to great perfection. It is true, there are often but two horſes in the plough; and he ſtirs his barley ground ſometimes, with one horſe only, while the other horſes are doing other parts of the farm work.——The mode of farming is various, according as the tenants, who have old leaſes, are ſkilled in huſbandry, or otherwiſe, or according to the taſte, and knowledge of the proprietor, by whom, in the late leaſes, they are often tied down to a certain rotation of crops. In general, however, about half of the land is in grain of various kinds, and the other half ſown with graſs ſeeds. Whatever number of crops, in grain, are taken, the land lies as long in graſs. The following is a common rotation: After graſs, 1ſt, oats, 2dly, turnips, peaſe, potatoes, or lint; 3dly, barley and graſs ſeeds, keeping it in graſs three years.

Stock and Produce.—The ſtock in this pariſh principally conſiſts of black cattle and horſes: there are almoſt no hogs, and not above 150 ſheep. In regard to produce, after ſupplying the pariſh itſelf, large quantities of meal are annually ſold in the neighbouring towns; and about 1200 bolls of barley, (31,600 ſtone), are annually exported. Through the whole ſummer, butter and cheeſe are weekly carried to the different markets around us.

Fuel.--This parish, and the neighbourhood, bring most of their fuel from Arbroath. The cart load of coals, (72 stones), costs generally 6s 8d. besides carriage; yet this is our cheapest, as well as best fuel, for there is little peat in this neighbourhood, and none in this parish.

Roads and Bridges—The roads have, till last year, been made by the statute labour, which was, long ago, found altogether insufficient, for making and keeping them in good repair. The labour of one parish was often carried out of it, to make a road in another, while the roads, within the parish itself, were exceedingly bad.

In 1790, an act of parliament was obtained, to raise money by turnpikes, for making certain county roads, therein laid down. In this act, the statute labour is converted into money, at the rate of L 1 : 4, sterling, on the L. 100 Scots of valued rent, to be raised yearly, till the parish roads are made. By this act, no money can be levied in one parish, to make the roads of another.

The turnpike act met with considerable opposition, before it was carried in the county; as most improvements do in their infancy; and there are still grumblers: But the gentlemen now seem all agreed; and the most respectable farmers acknowledge, that turnpikes must be a great advantage in this county, where roads were formerly, at no time good, and, in winter, were so deep, as to be almost entirely unpassable.

Antiquities.—A plain in the parish of Kirkden, between the Finny and the Lunan, seems, in days of yore, to have been often a field of blood. There is an obelisk in it; and many Roman urns, with bones in them, have, at different times, been dug up. The obelisk is niched into a large stone. There are on it, some imperfect figures of horses, &c. It is supposed by

ſome, to have been erected, upon the defeat of the Danes by Malcolm II. about the ſame time with the croſs at Camiſton, in the pariſh of Monikie, mentioned by Buchanan. Near this obeliſk, there was a green hillock, conſiſting of ſand and gravel, which was cut away 16 years ago, in ſtraighting the road; in which ſome graves were found. The bones in them were by no means of a larger ſize, than thoſe belonging to perſons in modern times.

In this pariſh there are two artificial conical mounts, called Laws: the law of the barony of Idvie, and that of Gardyne. The laſt is now covered with fir trees. The gallows ſtood upon the top of the Law. Thomas Lyal, Eſq. was told by David Philip, ſometime ago, a tenant in the pariſh, that he (David Philip) ſaw two Highlandmen taken in this pariſh, with ſtolen cattle, and immediately judged, condemned, and hanged, on the Law of Gardyne. The Law of Idvie has alſo an aperture on the top, where probably the gallows ſtood, or was occaſionally erected, in feudal times

The caſtle of Gardyne was built in 1568. It is firm and entire. An addition, to make it a more commodious dwelling, has been added in later times. The caſtle is romantically ſituated, on the brink of a precipice, at the bottom of which, there is a beautiful plantation of thriving trees, through which there runs, a purling ſtream, of the pureſt water.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—There is a mineral well in the pariſh, which has cured ſwellings and ſores of the feet and legs, merely by waſhing, after the applications of ſeveral phyſicians had proved ineffectual.——Potatoes are beginning to be more uſed in the towns; but, in this pariſh, they are ſeldom eat by the labourers, even by thoſe on public charity, excepting in the months of October, November, and December.——None, belonging to this pariſh, ſtroll about

bout begging; yet many Randies (ſturdy vagrants) infeſt this country, from the neighbouring towns, and the Highlands; who, from an undiſcerning humanity, and ſometimes, perhaps, from timidity, are but too much encouraged.——

A very great change, in the appearance of the people has taken place, within theſe few years. About 15 years ago, all the men ſervants wore coarſe home-manufactured cloth and bonnets. There were then ſeldom three men's hats ſeen at church, on a Sunday. Now, moſt of the men ſervants wear, on Sunday, good Engliſh cloth, (at leaſt what goes by that name); and there is hardly a bonnet to be ſeen in church. ——Many of the lower claſſes of females ſtill continue to cover their heads with the plaid in church: But ſeveral of them wear cloaks and ſilk hats, and begin to dreſs after the manner of thoſe in the more ſouthern counties of Scotland.——Within the laſt 10 years, about 9 or 10 cottages have become ruinous; but a greater number, and houſes of a better ſort, have, in that time, been built.

NUMBER XLVI.

PARISH OF MID-MARR.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By JOHN OGILVIE, D.D. F.R.S.E.

Name, Situation, &c.

ALL that part of the west of Scotland, which lies between the rivers, Dee and Don, was originally termed Marr. The three great divisions of this extensive region, are, Brae-Marr, Cro-Marr, and Mid-Marr. The first denotes the highest part of the country; the second, a lower and more cultivated district: the last had its name, probably from its centrical situation, in respect to the two rivers, each of which is distant about 6 miles from the church.——The parish is situated in the presbytery of Kincardine O'Neil, in the county and synod of Aberdeen. It is about 15 miles distant from that city. Its length, from east to west, is about 6¼ miles; and its breadth, from north to south, between 5 and 6 miles in some parts, exclusive of that part of the hill of Fare, which belongs to the parish, but which is uninhabited.

An exact measurement of the estate of Mid-Mar, which is equal to about one half of the parish, having recently been made,

made, the following may be conſidered, as a pretty juſt eſtimate of the quantity, and ſtate of the lands, within the whole diſtrict.

	Arable.					
	Incloſed.	Not incloſed.	Paſture.	Moſs	Wood	Muir.
Eſtate of Mid-marr	559	1082	440	60	87	716 acres.
Suppoſed belonging to other eſtates in the pariſh	650	1200	500	60	123	600
	1209	2282	940	120	210	1316

Total 6077 acres, of which nearly three-fifths, is in cultivation; ſo that, including that part of the hill of Fare, belonging to Midmar, which contains 464 acres of moſs, and 3239 of muir, the contents of the whole pariſh is about 9780 acres.

Hills, Foſſils, Mineral Springs, &c.——In Mid-marr, the only eminence, that deſerves mention, is the hill of Fare, which forms its ſouthern boundary. The baſe of this mountain is about 17 miles in circumference; and its height 1793 feet above the level of the ſea. On that ſide, which is contiguous to the caſtle of Mid-Marr, there is a thriving plantation of fir trees, of almoſt every ſpecies. The interior part contains, in its moſs, an invaluable article of fuel to the neighbouring inhabitants. It affords alſo excellent paſture, for numerous flocks of ſheep; and produces mutton of a very ſuperior flavour. No place, in this part of the country, ſo near the coaſt, abounds perhaps ſo much, in muir-fowl, hares, and other game, which find, at the ſame time, both food and ſhelter, in the luxuriant heath, which overſpreads its

ſurface.

ſurface. Foxes indeed are, both numerous and miſchievous; and are expelled from their hiding places with much difficulty.

Several chalybeate ſprings are found here, which, in ſcrophulous and ſcorbutic habits, have been found highly beneficial. Theſe ſprings are diſtinguiſhed at the fountain-head, from the common element, by a brown viſcous ſubſtance, either adhering to the edge of the rill, or floating on its ſurface. They may be traced, in the ſame manner, at conſiderable diſtance from their ſources, by the brown tincture of their channel, and of the earth on each ſide of it. The water takes a blue caſt upon mixing ſpirits with it, and is rendered black, by a ſmall infuſion of ſtrong tea, as is the caſe of the well-known medical ſpring of Peterhead. ——— The chief foſſil is granite, of which, an excellent kind, capable of receiving a very beautiful poliſh, is found in different parts of the pariſh.

In the middle of this eminence is the vale of Corrichie, well known as the ſcene of a battle, wherein the contending parties were headed by the Marquis of Huntly, and the Earl of Murray. Huntly fell in this engagement, in which his forces were routed by thoſe of his antagoniſt, the general of the unfortunate Mary. A ſmall poſſeſſion, on the north ſide of the hill retains, at this day, the name of *Craig-Hume*, in memory of one of that family, who was ſlain in that battle, and is interred in the neighbourhood. It is proper alſo to obſerve here, that the name of *Queen's Chair*, is given to an excavation, I know not whether natural or artificial, on the ſide of a rock, near this valley. Here Mary is ſaid to have ſat, while returning ſouthwards from Aberdeen, to view the ſcene of the recent engagement. In the neighbourhood of this ſpot, a remarkable echo is occaſioned by the contiguity of three ſmall eminences, from two of which, and the adjoining wood, the laſt accents

of

of the voice are thrice reverberated, in a tone uncommonly ſhrill and diſtinct. The principal remains of antiquity in this pariſh, are three Druidical fanes, of which, one, near the new church, is remarkably large; and an artificial mount, of conſiderable magnitude, which is now a part of the glebe*. This mount is obviouſly a work of art. A ditch or trench, that is caſt round it, is now covered with graſs, from the bottom of which to the ſummit, the perpendicular height is about 30 feet. The acclivity is gentle at the entrance, but ſteep in every other part. The middle part of the ſummit contains a cavity, with a ſmall circular riſing in its centre. Here, tradition reports, that criminals were tried, and juſtice adminiſtered. Upon the muir of Dalharick, in the north-weſt part of the pariſh, a battle is ſaid to have been fought, between Wallace and Cumming, wherein a perſon of diſtinction fell, of the name of Douglas: A tumulus, or cairn, marks the place, in the field, where his body was interred; and a brook that runs through it, retains, at this day, the name of *Douglas' Burn.*

Soil, Climate, and Productions.——The ground riſes gradually from the eaſt to the ſouth-weſt and weſt extremity of this pariſh, of which the ſoil towards the weſt, extending two miles from the church, is, in general marſhy; and the crops are late in ripening. In the north and eaſt diviſions, on the contrary

* Of Druidical fanes, and what the ancients have related, concerning the manners and cuſtoms of the celebrated order, from whom that appellation is derived, ſome account is given, in a poem, entitled *The Fane of the Druids*, publiſhed by Murray, London; to which the reader is referred for particulars on this curious ſubject.

contrary, the mould is commonly good dry earth, on a deep clayey bottom, the country level, and the harveſt as early as in moſt parts of the county. The principal crops of grain, are barley, oats, and peaſe; of which the two laſt ſpecies are ſown in March, and reaped in September; and the firſt, ſown about the beginning of May, is commonly reaped towards the end of Auguſt. But theſe circumſtances are rendered precarious, by the nature of the ſoil, as well as by the uncertainty of the ſeaſons. In general, the harveſt is concluded, about a month ſooner in the north than in the ſouth-weſt part of the pariſh. Potatoes may be conſidered as a part of the principal annual produce of the land. Turnip ſowing begins to be practiſed by the farmers. Some rich hay crops are raiſed, near the reſidence of the heritors of Mid Marr and Shiels, as well as on ſome of the principal farms. Flax is raiſed only for private uſe. In general, it may be obſerved, that the produce of the pariſh conſiderably exceeds the conſumption, ſo as to admit of an annual export.

The cauſes, that concur chiefly in obſtructing improvement in agriculture, in this part of the kingdom, are, the prejudices of the farmers in behalf of old eſtabliſhed practices; the ſhort leaſes granted by heritors; and certain ſervices, which tenants are bound, in many inſtances, to perform, under the penalty of forfeiting their poſſeſſions. Theſe cauſes ſtrengthen each other, by mutual co-operation. The prejudice of a farmer, in behalf of ancient practice, (always powerful in an unenlightened mind,) may be counteracted, during the courſe of a long leaſe, when he has leiſure to look about him, and to make trial of experiments, of which he has eſtimated the profit, as well as remarked the effect. On the contrary, he, whoſe leaſe muſt expire within a few years, will be attached, perhaps inſenſibly, to the practice and modes of his predeceſſors, from the impoſſibility of imitating a method, of which he

he might have been brought to approve. In this manner, he is induced to juſtify a mode of cultivation, which, whether right or wrong, he *muſt* carry into execution. The effect of ſervices, when rigorouſly exacted, in diſpiriting the farmer, and in rendering him indolent, and even indifferent to his moſt important occupations, muſt be obvious to any perſon. It ought to be remarked here, in juſtice to the proprietors, that different tenants of this pariſh have been long reſident on their poſſeſſions, particularly in the eſtates of Mid-Marr and Sheils. A fact, ſomewhat ſingular, is, that the farm of Bankhead, in the latter eſtate, has been occupied, during three centuries, by a race of farmers of the name of Fowler. Theſe, with the Tytlers of Corſinday, (of whom different families and well known names are deſcended,) have poſſeſſed the ſame farms during many generations, and been eſteemed at all times for their integrity and the propriety of their conduct.

Rent, Heritors, Farmers.—The valued rent of Mid-Marr amounts to L. 2387 Scots; the real rent, as nearly as can be conjectured, is from L. 1000 to L. 1100 Sterling. The farmers are in number 35; who pay, for their beſt arable land, about 20s; and, at an average, about 15s *per* acre, for all their infield ground. They draw from their ſubtenants, for ſuch land, from 20 to 25s *per* acre, themſelves ploughing it. There are here two reſiding heritors. The public road and croſs roads, in one part of the pariſh, are in good order; in another, both of late have been much neglected, as the principal heritor does not reſide in it. The public road is kept up by ſtatute labour, to which the males, from 15 to 60 years of age, are called out, twice a year, at Mid-ſummer, and after harveſt. An exemption from perſonal ſervice may be obtained, by the payment of 1s 6d a year. But there are few inſtances, wherein the individual does not either work himſelf,

or put a ſufficient man in his place. Statute labour firſt took place, in this diſtrict, about the year 1752.

Cattle, Sheep, Huſbandry, Utenſils, Carriages, &c.——There are in Midmar, according to a pretty exact eſtimate, 132 horſes, 525 black cattle, and about 1955 ſheep, 59 ploughs, and 91 carts. No waggons are neceſſary here, and no reſiding heritor has a carriage.

Healthineſs, Longevity, Stature, Population, &c.——The healthineſs, and longevity of the inhabitants, is the ſureſt proof of the purity of the air of this region. One of theſe, Robert Mackay, died, ſome years ago, at the reputed age of 103; another, a reſpectable tenant, named John Mackay, aged 90, died about the ſame time; and, of two women, natives of the pariſh, one died in her 90th, the other in her 97th year. The antient population cannot be exactly aſcertained. On the whole it has rather decreaſed. The numberof inhabitants at preſent is 945; between which, and the return to Dr. Webſter, of 979, in the year 1755, the difference however, is inconſiderable. During 10 years, from 1720 to 1730, the annual average of marriages was 10, and the births 26; from 1780 to 1790, though the average marriages were the ſame, the births were fallen to 20. One principal cauſe of this difference will be found in the change, that has lately taken place, in the manners of the people. In the lower claſſes, the expence of dreſs, of convivial meetings, and other appendages of luxury, have over-balanced the increaſe of wages, and the profit of trade. Among the better order of farmers, an emulation takes place in theſe, as well as in other correſponding articles. Young men were enabled, during the former period to marry early, by having practiſed an oeconomy, which is now exploded by the faſhion of the times.——

Young

Young women, in the ſame manner, acquired a competent dowry in thoſe days, at an early ſeaſon of life, by attention to this great circumſtance; and time was not waſted by either, in idle and expenſive gratifications. Marriagee, therefore, which, about 50 or 60 years ago, were contracted in early youth, and produced a numerous offspring, are now poſtponed to a later ſeaſon, and are of conſequence leſs productive. The following is an exact numeration of the preſent inhabitants.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 10 years of age	78	80	158
From 10 to 20	80	82	162
20 to 30	70	87	142
30 to 40	46	50	96
40 to 50	43	41	84
50 to 60	73	75	148
60 to 70	59	61	120
70 to 80	12	15	27
80 to 90	5	3	8
		In all	945

Many of the men exceed 6 feet in ſtature; from 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet, may be the ordinary height of the men, and 3 feet 4 inches, to 5 feet 8 inches, that of the women. One inſtance of extraordinary muſcular vigour occurs, in Peter Thomſon, a man now broken down by age, who has been known to perform feats of ſtrength, to which three ordinary men would ſcarcely have been equal.

Manner of living, Character, &c.—The people follow, in general, the occupation of huſbandry. There are, at the ſame time, blackſmiths, carpenters, taylors, ſhoe-makers, and o-

ther neceſſary tradeſmen, ſufficient for the exigencies of the pariſh, ſome of whom are excellent workmen: there are likewiſe a few ſhopkeepers. They live together in ſcattered villages, in houſes thatched with ſtraw; thoſe of the principal farmers are not incommodious, in which they entertain with becoming hoſpitality. The near neighbourhood of Aberdeen renders larger towns leſs neceſſary. The lower ranks are ſober and decent in their manners, intelligent and tractable; and, with their wealthier neighbours, abundantly ready to contribute, according to their ability, to the relief of the neceſſitous poor. The whole pariſh are members of the eſtabliſhed church, two families of Seceders excepted. The chief manufacture, is that of ſtockings, which are knit by the women, by which they can earn 2s. a week. The only language ſpoken here, is that dialect of the Engliſh, common in the north of Scotland.

Patron, Stipend, Church, Preſbytery.—Mid-Mar, is a *vice* patronage, to which Sir William Forbes preſents twice, and the Crown once alternately. The annual ſtipend, glebe included, is from L. 80 to L. 90, varying according to the price of grain. The former pariſh of Kinnairney being now united to Mid-Marr, and Cluny, its glebe is equally divided between the miniſters of theſe two pariſhes. A new church was built in 1787; the work is well executed, but the ſide-walls are not of a proportionate height. It would otherwiſe have been neat and commodious. The miniſter of this, with thoſe of the neighbouring pariſhes of Cluny and Echt, are ſubjected to a conſiderable local inconvenience, from being included in the extenſive range of the Preſbytery of Kincardine O'Neil; the road from theſe pariſhes to the Preſbytery ſeat, and higher parts of the preſbytery, being, by the hill of Fare, at all times unpleaſant, and, in winter, commonly impaſſable, theſe miniſters are often precluded from ſupplying occaſional vacancies

cies, and from attending the meetings of Preſbytery, even on the moſt urgent occaſions.

In conſequence of a legacy of L. 150, from the late Robert Harvey, Eſq. of Grenada, the capital ſtock belonging to the poor, amounts to L.217.——The emoluments of the ſchool are about L. 15 *per aanum.*

Miſcellaneous Remarks.—— Mr William Meſton, profeſſor of philoſophy in the Mariſchal college of Aberdeen, a man of conſiderable genius, was a native of the pariſh of Mid-Marr. He was the author of a ſmall collection of poems, of which a 6th edition was publiſhed at Edinburgh, in 1767. Some account of this author is prefixed to his poems, to which thoſe who deſire to know the particulars of an unfortunate and eventful life, are referred. The burleſque of theſe pieces is not diſſimilar to that of the celebrated author of Hudibras. That this gentleman did not riſe to excellence, in the line which nature had chalked out to him, we may aſcribe, without injuſtice, to the two great foes of every nobler effort of human genius, *indigence and dependence.* Mr Meſton's father was a blackſmith, much reſpected for his knowledge and ſagacity. To the memory of this and his other parent, our author erected a monument, in the pariſh churchyard. This circumſtance, omitted in the account of his life, ought to have been mentioned, not merely to commemorate that inſtance of filial piety; but alſo on account of the pure and claſſical ſtile in which the epitaph is compoſed.

Concluſion.——The change, that has taken place, on the general manners of the inhabitants of this diſtrict, as on thoſe perhaps of all others in its neighbourhood, during the laſt half of the preſent century, is marked by very ſtriking circumſtances. Old perſons complain of this alteration, in the author's

thor's opinion, without reaſon. They cenſure indiſcriminately every deviation from ancient practice, not as being culpable, but new; and they reprobate, with unmerited appellations, certain modes of conduct, which indicate only an advanced ſtate of civilization. Thus, changes that are preſcribed by faſhion, and the manners of the times, are termed extravagance and affectation; converſation ſomewhat enlarged, or any attempt to deviate, in diſcourſe, from their own barbarous phraſeology, are imitations of the talk and manners of gentlemen; an advance towards improvement, by any new mode of agriculture, is an innovation that cannot be practiſed ſucceſsfully; and the demand of written ſecurity for money, is an indication of diſtruſt, that is inconſiſtent with ancient ſimplicity and confidence, when individuals demanded no other ſecurity for ſmall ſums, than a verbal promiſe of payment. Theſe changes have their origin, partly in the larger and more diverſified intercourſe of ſociety, and partly in the more univerſal diffuſion of property, of which men are naturally rendered more careful, as they become more ſenſible of its value, and are benefited by thoſe advantages, of which it placeth them in poſſeſſion. Perhaps, indeed, progreſs in agriculture has not kept pace with other branches of improvement. Yet, if the latter ſhall go forward, in the ſucceeding, as in the preſent century, ſome correſponding advancement muſt be made on the former; as men will find, in the melioration of their farms, the only reſource, whereby expence, that will become unavoidable, can be ſupported.

NUMBER XLVII.

UNITED PARISHES OF KEITH-HALL AND KINKELL.

(COUNTY OF ABERDEEN.)

By the Rev. MR. GEORGE SKENE KEITH.

Name, Situation, &c.

THE antient name of one of these parishes was Montkeggie; the origin and etymology of which are unknown. Kinkell retains the old name, which is derived from the Gaelic, and signifies the *head*, or *principal church*. It obtained this name, because other six inferior parishes belonged to the parsonage of Kinkell. In 1754, the Lords Commissioners for the plantation of kirks, disjoined about one third part of the parish of Kinkell, and annexed it to Kintore. The other two thirds of Kinkell, they annexed to Keith-hall, or Montkeggie: And they appointed, that these parishes, in all time coming, should be called, the United Parishes of Keith-hall and Kinkell. This is the authority for the modern name.

These parishes are situated in the presbytery of Garioch, and in the synod and county of Aberdeen.—They contain

between 10,000 and 11,000 acres, the greater part of which has been meaſured. They extend rather more than 6 Engliſh miles in length. Their greateſt breadth is 5; but in ſome places they are conſiderably narrower.

Theſe pariſhes are hilly, but not mountainous. The ſoil varies conſiderably. The weſtern part, having a fertile ſoil, produces good crops: But the eaſtern is, in general, very unfruitful. This is partly owing to its expoſure to the E. the N. and N. E. partly to the poorneſs of the ſoil, and coldneſs of the ſubſoil, and no doubt, alſo partly to its elevation, many of the fields being 350 feet above the level of the ſea.—— The air, on the whole, is reckoned ſalubrious; but not equally ſo, being moiſt and unhealthy near the marſhy grounds.— Inflammatory fevers, ſometimes attended with putrid ſymptoms, prevail in the eaſtern diviſion; and of late, ſlow nervous fevers, which are more tedious than fatal; and the meaſles and ſmall pox occaſionally make their appearance. The rheumatiſm and nervous complaints, commonly called hyſterics, are not unfrequent; the firſt among the active, after violent exerciſe, or ſudden tranſitions from heat to cold; the ſecond among the ſedentary, whoſe ſole occupation is the knitting of ſtockings. The *ſcarlatina anginalis*, or ſcarlet fever, with a ſore throat, was fatal to many, in 1783. It was probably occaſioned by the badneſs of their proviſions. The *ſchrophula*, or king's evil, is in a few families: Yet it does not prevent the marriages of thoſe, who are known to be affected with that dreadful diſeaſe.

Rivers.——There are two rivers, the Don and the Ury.— The Don produces ſalmon. The Ury has none, except in the ſpawning ſeaſon. Pike, eel, and trout are found in both. The channel of the Don is full of large rocks at Stonywood, about 5 miles diſtant from Aberdeen, which would make it extremely

tremely difficult to render it navigable. But if a canal were carried along the ſide of that river, for 3 miles, a navigation might be carried, to Inverury.——With little expence the Ury could be rendered navigable, as its fall, for 12 miles, counting its windings, does not probably exceed 30 feet. Both theſe rivers are apt to overflow the adjacent grounds. The greateſt inundation was in 1768. Another, not much leſs, took place in 1774. In 1789, though the flood was not nearly ſo great, the Don overflowed its banks eleven times during the harveſt ſeaſon.

Eccleſiaſtical State.——The Earl of Kintore is patron.——The ſtipend is nearly 89 bolls of meal and bear, and L. 43 : 13 : 5 in money.—The church and manſe were built in 1771 and 1772, at a place in the centre of the diſtrict, called Legate, ſo named, becauſe the Pope's Legate ſtaid there all night, (at a ſmall chapel, which ſtill retains the name of Monk's Hillock,) the night before the great battle of Harlaw: as Legate's den, in the chapel of Garioch, was the place, where he in vain attempted to reconcile the contending parties.

In this diſtrict there are 38 Quakers, 3 Seceders, 2 Methodiſts, and 10 Epiſcopalians. The reſt are of the eſtabliſhed church.

Population.——The population of theſe pariſhes has decreaſed ſince the year 1750, and even ſince the preſent incumbent was ſettled. The return to Dr Webſter, was 828 ſouls in Keith-Hall, and 429 in Kinkell, two thirds of which, or 286, being united to Keith-Hall, would make the total population of the diſtrict, at that time, about 1114 ſouls; whereas from 1778 to 1782, there were only 900 perſons of all ages, viz. 230 in Kinkell, and 670 in Keith-Hall: and at Whitſunday 1782, the farmers in Keith-Hall pariſh having entered

into new leases, and moss having become very scarce, the tenants were restricted to a certain number of subtenants; so that, in winter 1784, the minister's parish list was reduced to exactly 797 persons. In 1790 it rose to 816; and at Whitsunday 1791, to 838. Of last this number, 232 were below 15; 76 between 15 and 20; 134 between 20 and 30; 129 from 30 to 40; 88 from 40 to 50; 75 from 50 to 60; 52 from 60 to 70; 36 from 70 to 80; 13 from 80 to 90; and 3 from 90 to 100. Among these, there are only two residing heritors, the Earl of Kintore, and Major General Gordon, of Balbithan. 31 farmers pay L. 10, or more of rent; 113 are small farmers, or subtenants, and 64 have only a house, and sometimes a small garden, subsisting chiefly by knitting stockings. Of the small farmers and subtenants, 4 are blacksmiths, 6 house-carpenters, or cart-wrights, 3 taylors, 5 shoemakers, and 2 weavers. ——There are only 3 non-residing proprietors.

Proportion of the Sexes.—The number of the males and females is exactly equal. Before the Earl of Kintore came to reside in these parishes, there were generally 6 or 8 more males than females. (The number of maid-servants in great houses, exceeds, for the most part, that of men-servants. In farm-houses the reverse holds true). By inspecting the register of baptisms it appears, that out of 2025 births, 1025 were males, and 1000 were females. Consequently the proportion of males to females, is exactly as 41 to 40; only more males remove to Aberdeen, or go abroad, which renders the numbers at home so equal.

State of the Poor.—The number of families on the poors roll has varied from 18, its present number, to 30, besides those

who get occaſional ſupplies. In 1782 there were about 50 families, or 220 perſons of all ages, who received aſſiſtance either from the poors funds, or from the bounty of parliament. In the eaſtern diviſion of the pariſh, then inhabited by about 500 perſons, there was not grain to preſerve 100 alive. Above 2 chalders of meal ware received in a donation from the public, and 3 chalders were ſold for only 10s per boll, (or 20s per ſack). All the money the ſeſſion had, was diſtributed among the poor; and L. 10 were borrowed on a ſmall property belonging to them in the borough of Inverury. Some of the pariſhioners put money into the miniſter's hands, free of intereſt for 18 months, to purchaſe grain; and the farmers, who had no money, ſent, in their turn, horſes and carts gratis, to Aberdeen, for peaſe, bear, oats, and coarſe flour. The price of grain was kept low here, compared with many other pariſhes;—and, in this diſtrict, no foreſtallers made any profit. The debt then contracted by the pariſh, was only paid off in 1790. At preſent the poor get annually about L. 18; of which L. 10 is the amount of the ordinary collections; from L. 5 to L. 7, is received at the adminiſtration of the ſacrament; and L. 2: 5 of land rent from property in Inverury, beſides what is drawn for the uſe of the mort-cloths, and for penalties.

Black-Cattle, Horſes, and Sheep.—The number of black cattle at Whitſunday 1791, in this diſtrict, was 1038: their value, as nearly as could be computed at that time, was L. 3733. The number of horſes was 204: their probable value L. 1400; The number of ſheep 1844: their probable value, L. 483. The aggregate value of all, L. 5616. This is about 5 years free rent, or 4½ years groſs rent of this diſtrict; or nearly one fifth part of the value of the landed property of the pariſhes of Keith-Hall and Kinkell. But though their price is high at preſent, their number and intrinſic value has of late much decreaſed. Above

40 years ago, by the beſt accounts that can be procured, there were at leaſt double the number of black cattle, in this diſtrict, and more than 5 ſheep where there are 2 at preſent. And in a few years hence, it is probable, there will not be one half of the preſent number. The number of horſes alone has increaſed, ſince black cattle came to be leſs uſed in the plow. In 1778, there were 26 oxen ploughs, each plough conſiſting of 10 or 12 oxen, beſides other ſmall ploughs. At preſent there are only 8 ploughs, which have 10 oxen in the plough. The number of young cattle has alſo decreaſed ſince 1782 and 1783. At that time many farmers were obliged to ſell all off, or great part of their oxen; and thay have not yet been able to ſupply their place, though they raiſe as many young ones as they can, to pay their rents and ſtock their farms. Almoſt all the ſtock of black cattle are reared in the diſtrict itſelf. About 20 horſes are of the weſt country, or Iriſh breed; the reſt are home-bred, and of the kind called Galloways. They are lighter, live longer, are more hardy, and eaſier kept than the other; and ſeem to retain a little of the original blood. A great number of them have been carried to the ſouthern counties within theſe 8 years paſt.

Product.——Oats, bear, barley, peaſe, turnips, potatoes, a few carrots, and a good many greens and cabbages, are the principal productions of the diſtrict. There may be 3000 acres in oats of different kinds; near 300 in barley; 100 in clover, and rye-graſs; and from 36 to 40 acres in turnips. The ancient huſbandry, within theſe 10 or 18 years, is beginning to wear out;—and, with proper encouragement, the farmers would incloſe and improve their farms. The diſtrict ſupplies itſelf with proviſions; and ſends a conſiderable quantity to Aberdeen.

Mode

Mode of Cultivation.——The ancient diviſion of the land was into infield, outfield, and fauchs. The infield was dunged, every 3 years, for bear; and the two crops that followed bear were oats invariably. The outfield was kept five years in natural graſs; and, after being tathed by the farmer's cattle, who were folded or penned in it, during the ſummer, it bore 5 ſucceſſive crops of oats. The fauchs, after being 5 years in natural graſs, got a ſingle plowing, (hence they were called *one fur ley*), the land continuing without a crop for one year, and then bearing four crops of oats, without any dung. The ſpecies of oats uſed for this laſt, and partly for the outfield, is called ſmall oats, hairy oats, or ſhiacks. They yield from five pecks, to half a boll of meal. And are meaſured by handwaving, i. e. they are ſtroked by the hand about 4 inches above the top of the firlot. They raiſe a great deal of fodder, or forage; and exhauſt the ground more than any other crop.

Since the introduction of turnips, the farmers make it a general rule, not to take more than one, and never more than two crops of oats in ſucceſſion, in their infield grounds. But in regard to the outfields and fauchs, when they manure them with lime, without taking a turnip crop, the wretched ſyſtem of 5 ſucceſſive crops of oats is ſtill continued. Two or three farmers begin to think of a rotation of crops; without fixing, however, on any regular rotation. The old Scottiſh plough, the Yorkſhire, and a mixture of Scots and Engliſh ploughs, are uſed in this diſtrict.

Foreſt and Fruit Trees.——There is a conſiderable number of large aſh and plane, and a few good Scots firs, all above 60 years old, near the houſes of Keith-hall and Balbithan; but too little, of any other kind of wood, in this diſtrict. What there is, conſiſts of elm, black cherry, larix, ſpruce and Scots pine. A few apple trees, and ſome pears and cher-

ries

ries are found in the gardens: And, in 1762, Lord Mariſchal cauſed plant ſeveral hundreds of geans or black cherries, which have anſwered very well.

Farm-houſes and Cottages.——Theſe are generally built of ſtone and mortar, ſometimes with ſtones, without any cement; and are covered with turf. Within theſe five years, a very few of them have been ſtob-thatched, or covered with a deep coat of ſtraw,—and ſnecked or harled with lime. None of the walls are built with lime; nor are any of their roofs covered either with tiles or ſlates.—Yet they are much better, than they were, before they got new leaſes. They are to get allowance for their houſes, at the end of the leaſe; but they get nothing, or next to nothing, allowed them, in the firſt inſtance; as is the practice in moſt of the improved counties. The whole dead inventory, or value of the houſes, belonging to the heritors, does not much exceed L. 150, in both theſe pariſhes.

Fuel.—The fuel made uſe of is of various kinds. Peats, from the Burreldale moſs, conſtitute the principal fuel in Keith-hall. Turf from the moors, and broom, and furze or whins, are uſed in Kinkell, where they have little moſs, and that of very bad quality. A few coals are uſed, in the eſtate of Kinmuck, by the farmers: But only a few; for they are very dear. A boll of coals, of 36 ſtone, coſts from 4s to 5s at Aberdeen; and the carriage, where carts are hired, about half that ſum; ſo that, every pound of coal coſts more than half a farthing.—Till the tax on coals be taken off, or equalized over the kingdom, the farmers, in the north of Scotland, will never ſucceed in agriculture; becauſe the whole ſummer is ſpent in collecting fuel to their heritors, and themſelves. Every poſſeſſor of a plough of land, muſt caſt, and

carry

carry home to the heritor's houſe, and build, a leet of peats, in the principal eſtate in this diſtrict.—This coſts him a week's labour of his carts, and about 10s for digging and building them. Peats are not ſold publicly, but are frequently ſtolen, and ſometimes ſold privately, to thoſe who have no moſs. All the moſſes are under bad management, and muſt ſoon be exhauſted.

Manure.—The dung of animals, here called *muck*, and peat-aſhes, are the principal manures. Within theſe twelve years, lime has been driven, in conſiderable quantities, from Aberdeen, a diſtance of 14 Engliſh miles. Some ſlacked lime has alſo been driven, from ſome lime kilns, in the pariſhes of Udny, New Machar, and Old Machar. It is a very expenſive manure. At the average expence of lime and carriage, every boll of ſhell-lime, (Aberdeen meaſure, holding 130 Scotch pints,) coſts 5s; and an acre of ground will require 16 bolls,—or L. 4, for lime,—and the carriage from Aberdeen. Of late years, the price of lime has fallen conſiderably at Aberdeen; but it is ſtill very dear.

Rent and Size of Farms.—The largeſt farms contain about 250 acres, including paſture grounds, and rent from L. 60 to L. 66 a year. Theſe are called two ploughs. One plough, near the river, rents about L. 35; and, in the eaſt diviſion, from L. 20 to L. 25. In ſmall parcels, good land is rented at 20s *per* acre. The farmers are generally charged 12s an acre, for their infield land: And their outfields and fauchs are rated at from 3s to 10s. The firſt, (that which is let at 2s,) is really the deareſt, in the way they manage it, viz. plowing without manure, and taking four or five crops of oats). In general, good grounds are valued very cheaply by the heritors,

and

and land-meaſurers; but the bad lands are by far too dearly rented. As land is worth no more than what it will produce, after clearing all charges, the infields, valued at 12s, are better worth 18s, than the outfields, eſtimated at 6s, are worth 4s; and than thoſe, rated at 3s, are worth 1s, if kept in crops, or 1s 6d the acre, if kept, as they ought to be, in graſs, and uſed as ſheep's paſture. Accordingly, thoſe farmers are moſt thriving, who have moſt good ground, even though the proprietors think they have a great rent paid them. In general, the whole lands, in this diſtrict, are worth the whole rent charged from all the tenants: But that rent is, in ſome caſes, very ill proportioned among the different farmers; and both the cheapeſt and deareſt lands in the county, are to be found in this diſtrict. At the ſame time, the great riſe in the wages of ſervants, day-labourers, and expence of harveſting, and of farm utenſils, is more generally complained of, by the farmers, than the riſe of their rents.

Proviſions——The price of proviſions varies conſiderably in different ſeaſons. Good oat meal, at an average of 20 years, has been 10d. farm meal, 9d. a peck, of 8 Amſterdam, or Scots troy pounds. Malt 1s. to 1s 4d. a peck, Aberdeen meaſure, or 20s to 26s. the Wincheſter quarter. (In the whole diſtrict of Garioch, the farm meal, made of ſmall oats, which both heritors and miniſters muſt accept from the farmers, is 10 per cent. worſe, than the oat meal ſold in the market at Aberdeen). Butter ſells, in this diſtrict, from 6d. to 8d. the pound, of 26 avoirdupoiſe ounces, which is the weight of the pound at Old Meldrum, the neareſt market town. At Aberdeen, the pound of butter is 28 ounces; and, in other places, 20, 22, and 24 ounces, all in the ſame county. Cheeſe ſells at 5s. the ſtone of 26 lb. In general, the neceſſaries of life

are

and a peck of mixed meal, at an average, to each perſon. But for broſe, a diſh much uſed, they keep ſome of their oatmeal unmixed. A man and his wife, without children, need 2 pecks of oat-meal, and half a peck of bear meal, if they have a cow. Where they have no cow, they uſe from half a peck to 2 pecks of malt weekly, according to the number of the family, and the nature of the man's employment. In general, the day-labourers are in much better circumſtances, than thoſe who have large crofts; and good mechanics can afford to live better, than the farmers in this diſtrict. The greateſt difficulty they experience, is that of getting their ſmall pieces of land plowed, as ploughs are very ſcarce.

Manufactures.—The knitting of ſtockings, is the principal manufacture of this diſtrict. It is carried on by almoſt all the women, and by many boys and old men. Different manufacturers, from Aberdeen bring out wool, and give to the people, from 10d. to 2s. a pair for working it. A woman will make from 3d, to 3½ a day, and do ſome little things about her houſe, at the ſame time. Or ſhe can work at her ſtocking, while feeding her cows in the baulks, or patches of graſs between the ridges, which are not uncommon in this diſtrict. On the whole, however, this employment is too ſedentary, and gives too little exerciſe for the body.——Since the introduction of loom-ſtockings, the knitting or netting of ſtockings with wires, has been on the decline; and, as the Germans are our great rivals in this manufacture, and the price of labour is cheap there, a peace with Germany always reduces greatly the price of this commodity. At preſent, the price is low; and, as the principal manufacturers muſt give from 10 to 12 months credit to Dutch merchants, this branch of commerce is falling off, and muſt decline more and more, as it ſeems to be conducted on bad principles.——The former

staple manufacture of this county was serges or fingerings. And, as the sheep were formerly much more numerous than at present, and both the raw materials, and the price of labour, belonged to the country people, this was incomparably a better manufacture, than the knitting of stockings, from coarse English wool. It was lost by bad workmanship. A stamp-office for this woolen manufacture, would have saved a valuable branch of commerce. Very little linen is made, and still less flax grows in this district. ——The stocking manufactory brings in from L. 450 to L. 600 a year, according to the price of stockings, and the dearness of provisions.—— In 1782 and 1783, the average price of stockings was below 1s. for manufacturing, each pair. But provisions were so dear, that the people wrought incessantly; and, by the best accounts, 18,000 pair of stockings were made yearly, at that time, in this district.

Carriages, Carts, &c.——There is only one carriage kept in this district. There are 63 double carts, of which about 40 are pretty good; there are 40 single carts, most of which are very bad. Thirty-five years ago, there was but one cart in the parish of Keith Hall; and the dung was carried on horses backs in creels; the men filled the creels, and the women led the horses. No woman is now employed in this servile work. But the women are thought to be less healthy and vigorous, since they were confined to the knitting of stockings. Some better manufacture may be established.——Within these 20 years, the whole clothing of the inhabitants was raised and manufactured in the district, or in the neighbourhood. Now at least one third is brought from England; and the difference between the value of the dress used now, and what was used 50 years ago, would nearly pay the rents of the two parishes. In this article, the expence of shoes has become very conspi-

cuous;

are from one third to one half dearer, and articles of luxury more than double, within these 40 years*.

Expences

* If we inquire into the proportion, between the present and ancient prices of both the necessaries and luxuries of life, the inquiry is involved in many intricacies, which, perhaps, no one writer has sufficiently attended to. We ought not only to distinguish, between the quantity of silver in a nominal pound, from the time that a pound of silver was a real pound weight, down to the time when it was reduced, in Scotland, to less than the value of one third-part of an ounce of silver, or $\frac{1}{48}$ part of its original weight, but we must also consider, how much of pure silver, and how much alloy, were in a pound of coined silver, at different periods. Then we have to consider, how far this money went, in purchasing articles of luxury, and how far in purchasing the necessaries of life. It farther deserves to be considered, that, since the discovery of America, the value of gold and silver, as articles of commerce, has fallen, it is supposed, one third part; and that this fall is independent of every other cause, except the increased quantity of these metals.

After these remarks, made with a view of preventing mistakes, both in giving and receiving the accounts of the price of provisions in Scotland, the following selection of articles is submitted. In 1438, oat meal sold in Aberdeen at 4s Scots per boll. The pound Scots at that time, was equal to L. 1 : 13 Sterling, if the silver had the same quantity of alloy, which coined silver has at present. The boll of meal, therefore, was above 6s and 7d Sterling. But on account of the great quantity of alloy, it would not much exceed 5s. Yet at that period, this certainly was a high price for oat meal. Wheat cost 7s Scots or 1 18 6d Sterling per boll. In 1576, the conversion for the Bishop of Aberdeen's rents, when not paid in kind, was L. 1 Scots for wheat, worth at that time only 3s Sterling, from Scottish money being so much changed in its value.

Expences of a common Labourer's Family.—The expence of a labourer, and his mode of living, are very different, according as he has a cow and an acre of land, or only a house and small garden. In the first case, a peck of bear meal is mixed with two or three pecks of oat meal for bread; and a man and his wife, with 3 or 4 children, will live tolerably well, with milk, and

And oat meal was converted at 10s Scots, or 1s 6d Sterling. Thus the price of provisions was really much cheaper, in 1576 than in 1438, though the nominal value was higher. In 1591, at the valuation of the effects, and confirming of the testament of Mrs Catherine Grant, wheat was valued at L. 3 Scots, or 7s and 8d Sterling. Only three years before that period, viz. in 1588, there was a famine, and oat meal sold for L. 18. Scots, or L. 2: 6: 1, Sterling per boll. In regard to the expence of cloaths, it appears, from the records of the City of Aberdeen, (from which all the Statements in this note are taken) that the Town Council of Aberdeen gave Manns or Magnus Cobbar, 20d or 1s and 8d Scots, in 1498, to buy a coat for ringing his bell once a week. This coat to the bell man must have been coarse, yet it certainly was cheap, as 20d Scots at that time were equal to only 9d Sterling. In regard to the price of candles, tallow, in 1531, was 6s Scots, or 1s and 11d Sterling per Stone. With respect to beef and mutton, a mart ox was valued, in the Bishop of Aberdeen's rental, at L. 1: 10 Scots, or 4s and 6d Sterling; equal to the converted price of 3 bolls of oat meal. This, no doubt was very cheap; but the beef was probably indifferent. A sheep in 1507, at the highest, sold in Aberdeen for 2s and 8d Scots, or 1s and 3d Sterling. In 1576 it was converted for 5s Scots or 9d Sterling Only 40 years ago, the farmers in this district sold an old ox, at the end of harvest, for a guinea, or 25s, and never above 30s. Little meat was then used in Aberdeen, compared with what is made use of at present, there was little demand from England, and no turnips, at least in this district, for feeding old oxen.

She was twice married; firſt, to a nameſake of her own, who came from the ſouth country, and is ſaid to have compoſed the Song, to her praiſe, that is ſo generally admired, and partakes much of the muſic, which, at that time, abounded between the Tay and the Tweed. Her ſecond huſband was one James George: And ſhe had children by both. Like moſt other beauties, ſhe was unfortunate. Her father killed a man in the burgh of Inverurie; and was obliged to fly to Caithneſs, or Orkney, where his uncle was biſhop. His flight, and the expence of procuring a pardon, ruined his eſtate. This is the tradition. But, perhaps the Laſs of Patie's mill may be claimed by as many pariſhes of Scotland, as Homer's birth-place was by the cities of Greece. It is only certain, that, in this diſtrict, there was a young woman, heireſs of Patie's mill, who was lampooned by a diſappointed lover, and praiſed by a ſucceſsful one *.

Language.——The language ſpoken in this diſtrict is Engliſh, or rather that particular dialect of Scottiſh, known by the name of Broad Buchan, or Aberdeenſhire dialect. The frequent uſe of the vowel *i*, long *e*, or diphthong *ee*, for *o* and *u*;—the ſharpneſs of the accents, which makes ſtrangers believe that the natives are always quarrelling; and a riſe, inſtead of a cadence, at the end of ſentences, diſtinguiſh the pronunciation of the lower claſſes. Yet, there is not a provincial dialect, in Britain, better underſtood, on the Royal Exchange of London, than that of Aberdeenſhire, if it be uſed without any affectation. The unmuſical ſharpneſs of the ſounds renders it diſtinctly audible. No Gaelic is ſpoken within 30 Engliſh miles of this diſtrict, excepting by natives of the Highlands; though many of the names of places, as, Caſkiebean, (the Sha-

dow

* This obſervation is verified: See Page 82. Pariſh of Galſton,

dow of the Hill) Balbithan, (the Town above the River,) &c. are derived from that language.

Character of the Inhabitants.——They are, in general, very industrious, and live plainly, and in such sobriety, that, since 1788, three different attempts, to settle an ale-house among them, have proved abortive. They dress better than their neighbours. It has been said, that the people of Kintore and Inverury put all their money in their bellies, and those of Keith-hall and Kinkell on their backs. They are, in general, very charitable and humane. No instance has occurred, in the memory of any person, of any inhabitant of the district being brought before a court of justice, for any crime. Several of the young men go to Aberdeen, as mechanics: But none go into the navy, and very few into the army.

State in 1782, & 1783.——Several families, who would not allow their poverty to be known, lived on two diets of meal a day. One family wanted food from Friday night till Sunday at dinner. On the last Friday of December, 1782, the country people could get no meal in Aberdeen, as the citizens were afraid of a famine; and a poor man, in this district, could find none in the country, the day after: But the distress of this family being discovered, they were supplied. Next day, the session bought, at a sale, a considerable quantity of bear, which was made into meal. This served the poor people, till the importation at Aberdeen became regular; and every man of humanity rejoiced, that the danger of famine was removed. In the beginning of this century, many died of want, in particular, 10 highlanders, in a neighbouring parish, that of Kemnay; so that the session got a bier made to carry them to the grave, not being able to afford coffins for such a number. At that period, the Earl of Kintore gave

cuous: Formerly, these were made of the hides of oxen, killed by the farmers, and tanned by the shoemakers of the district. Now they are chiefly made of English tanned leather, and none is tanned in the district. Almost every servant has a coat of English cloth, and a watch of Birmingham or London manufactory, as a necessary appendage to dress; while printed cottons, or other showey, but unsubstantial articles of dress, are preferred by the young women, to the manufactures of the country. On the whole, the balance of manufactures, sold to other parishes, or sent to Aberdeen, compared with the articles of dress, both useful and ornamental, bought by the inhabitants, is far from being so favourable to these parishes, as it was only 20 years ago.

Remarkable Places.——There are three Druids temples, and the remains of several more in this district. There are 3 large cairns, which are seen at a considerable distance; one near Balbithan, called the Cairn More, or great cairn; one at Kinmuck, which commands a prospect of the low country; and one on the hill of Selbie, which commands a prospect of great part of Garrioch, Buchan, and Formartin, and the sea coast, nearly from Aberdeen to Peterhead. Near the old house of Balbithan, there is a small ring ground, called the Law, where justice was antiently administered.

Memorable Events—Tradition records, that a great battle was fought between the Scots and the Danes, on the moor of Kinmuck; a range of fields near it, now arable, and also the moor, are called Plair-hassey, which signifies, the Field of Blood. The Scottish army are said to have killed a boar at Kinmuck, which denotes the boar's head. This was an omen of victory.——A great multitude of small cairns are scattered over the moor; and General Gordon, one of the heritors, remembers

members to have frequently obſerved the veſtiges of an encampment, on the ſouth ſide of the moor, having a large moraſs (the moſſes of Balbithan and Kinmuck) on the back, and the burn of Denmiln, or Danemiln, on the right of the camp. The field of battle extended the whole length of the pariſh of Kinkell, on the north, or above two Engliſh miles. The Danes were defeated, and purſued to the burn of Dennyburn, or Danes-burn, on the other ſide of the pariſh.

Eminent Perſons.—The famous Johnſton, next to Buchanan, the beſt Latin poet of modern times, was born at Caſkiebean, which he celebrates. He mentions a curious fact, viz. that the ſhadow of the high mountain of Benochie, diſtant about 6 Engliſh miles, extends to the houſe of Caſkiebean, at the equinox. The High Conſtable of Dundee, Scrimgeour, who fell at Harlaw, was buried at Kinkell, and has a Latin inſcription on his monument, ill preſerved. Many others, who fell in this battle, are ſaid to have been buried at Kinkell, which was the principal church in that part of the county. Tradition alſo ſpeaks of an eminent woman, *The Laſs of Patie's mill.* Her maiden name was Anderſon. A great grandſon of hers, aged 89, and a number of her deſcendants, reſide in this diſtrict, and in the pariſhes of Kinnellar and Dyce. Her father was proprietor of Patie's mill, in Keithhall; of Tullikearie, in Fintray; and Standing Stones, in the pariſh of Dyce. From her beauty, or fortune, or from both cauſes, ſhe had many admirers; and ſhe was an only child. One Sangſter, laird of Boddom, in New Machar pariſh, wiſhed to carry her of, but was diſcovered by his dog, and very roughly handled by her father, who was called *black John Anderſon.* In revenge, he wrote an ill natured ſong, of which her great grandſon remembers theſe words:

Ye'll tell the gowk that gets her,
He gets but my auld ſheen.

She

ſome of his tenants oxen; ſome of them, oats for ſeed, and a year's rent, to take his vacant farms, in this diſtrict; and forgave arrears of rent, in the bad ſeaſon. In 1782 and 1783, a converſion, at a moderate rate, was allowed to thoſe tenants who were in arrears; and thoſe, who were removed from their farms, were allowed to keep a horſe and a cow, and their houſehold furniture. Since the decay of the feudal ſyſtem, however, there is not the ſame attachment, between landlords and their tenants, or vaſſals, which ſubſiſted about 80 years ago.

Advantages and Diſadvantages.—The advantages of this diſtrict are, good ſoil near the rivers, freedom from mill-multures; the ſtocking manufacture; the high price of black cattle at preſent, and the ſobriety of the people.

The diſadvantages are, diſtance from lime and marle, and from any conſiderable market-town;—the ſudden increaſe of rents, which were raiſed above onefifth part, all at once, and before any improvements could be made on the farms;—the impolitic reſtriction of the farmers to a certain number of ſubtenants, inſtead of reſtricting the ſize of the croft to tradeſmen and day-labourers;—the ſcarcity of mechanics, and the badneſs of their work;—rents being paid in kind, i. e. in bear and oatmeal;—the number of carriages, or feudal ſervices, every farmer being obliged to bring 6 cart-loads from Aberdeen yearly, to the principal heritor, beſides, peats from the moſs;—want of ſtock in the farmers, who were never rich;—bad houſes, owing to the farmers having had no leaſes for 20 years before 1782, but poſſeſſing their farms by tacit relocation; and the want of a chamberlain, or land ſteward, under the factor and commiſſioner, who ſhould have power to receive from the poorer tenants any arrears of rent, in ſmall ſums, which they could not pay at the term day; with a ſuperintendance over the ma-

nagement of the farms, and the general improvement of the estate.

How to meliorate the Condition of the People.——This might be effected, by giving the tenants, (which is done in most of the improved counties of Scotland,) an allowance of a year's rent for the building of houses;—by granting them longer leases than 19 years, upon progressive rises of rent;—by lending them, without interest, for 2 or 3 years, money to buy lime, the tenants bringing it out themselves, and being bound to lay it on turnip or fallow grounds;—by advancing one half of the value of stone fences, the tenant paying only 5 per cent. of interest, and either paying the other half, or what is generally more than half the expence, laying down the materials;—giving small premiums to the farmer, who has the best field of turnips; and converting, where a farmer has a certain number of acres in sown grass, all the carriages and leet peats into money;—encouraging meetings, where the farmers may open their minds, and communicate their plans to one another;—encouraging day labourers, and discouraging all large crofts, whose occupiers spend the summer in leading home more peats, than would serve many day-labourers;—encouraging good ploughmen, by small premiums; and proportioning both the rents and size of farms, better than they are at present.

NUMBER XLVIII.

PARISH OF KILMUIR.

(ISLE OF SKY.)

By the Rev. MR. DONALD MARTIN.

Name, Situation, &c.

THE antient, as well as the modern name of this pariſh, is Kilmuir, which, in Gaelic, ſignifies, the church of Mary, to whom, at a very remote period, it had been dedicated.——It is ſituated in the county of Inverneſs, in the iſland and preſbytery of Sky, and ſynod of Glenelg.—The form of the inhabited part of the pariſh is a ſemicircle, having within it, the extremity of a ridge of mountains, which runs from North to South, through this and two other pariſhes. Its length is 11 computed, or about 16 Engliſh miles; and its breadth is ſuppoſed to be at leaſt 8 Engliſh ones. It is bounded by the pariſh of Snizort on the ſouth, and in every other quarter, is ſurrounded by the ſea. The air is moiſt, but not unhealthy; and the inhabitants are not ſubject to any peculiar or epidemical diſorders. The nature of the ſoil, in general, is a deep and fertile clay; but the reaping of the produce is rather uncertain, on account of the variableneſs of the climate.

The general appearance of the inhabited part of the country is flat. The hills, in the lower part of the diſtrict, are green, but the mountains are covered with heath.

Coaſt, Fiſh, &c.——The extent of the ſea-coaſt may be computed at 30 Engliſh miles. The ſhores are in general high and rocky.—There is a great quantity and variety of fiſh to be caught on the coaſt,—ſuch as herrings, cod, ling, turbot, ſkate, &c. but the fiſh are caught, not by regular fiſhermen, but by the country people, for the uſe of their families, when their domeſtic occupation will permit, and are not ſold or ſent to foreign markets. When a ſhoal of herrings comes on the coaſt, whales of various kinds and magnitudes follow it. Some ſeals always frequent the rocks and ſmall iſlands, belonging to the pariſh.—Strong gales from the north-weſt very frequently throw into ſeveral creeks in the pariſh, great quantities of common ſea-weed and tangle. When this happens in the months of March and April, the people lay it on their fields as manure, and it produces an excellent crop of barley. —There are about 80 tons of kelp made annually from the ſea-weed cut from the rocks.——At the northern extremity of the pariſh, there is a high and rocky promontory called Huniſh, at the point of which, there is a moſt rapid current. It is believed, that a light-houſe would be of great ſervice to mariners at that place, more eſpecially, as it is not far diſtant from the dangerous rocks of Sker-na-mile.—There are numerous creeks, in which boats can enter; but only two places, in which veſſels of large burden can anchor with ſafety. The firſt is the harbour of Duntulm, which enjoys the advantage of moſt excellent holding ground, and is admirably ſheltered on all quarters, the north-weſt, perhaps, excepted. At the ſouth end of the harbour, which is the proper place for veſſels to enter, there are the ruins of the ſuperb caſtle of Duntulm

tulm, the antient reſidence of the M'Donald family, ſituated on a high rock, the foot of which is waſhed by the ſea.—The other harbour is called the bay of Altivaig, which has good ground for anchorage; but, being open to the northern ſea, is judged rather unſafe. The iſlands on the coaſt of this pariſh, are five, Tulm, Flada-whein, Altivaig, Flada, and Troda.

Migratory Birds.——The cuckow, in a good year, announces, pretty early, the approach of ſummer with her notes. It is not unuſual to hear 3 or 4 of them at one time. ——The ſwans come hither in the beginning of winter, and live on a lake in this neighbourhood, till the hatching ſeaſon comes on. Then they go home to their native north, and remain there, until the next winter froſt precludes them from food in thoſe countries, and drives them to happier climes. Hundreds of them, at a time, may be ſeen moving in all the majeſty, that any of the feathered tribe can be poſſeſſed of, on the ſurface of the aforeſaid lake.—There is another migratory bird, that comes to Flada-whein, and no farther. It is a water fowl, of a beautiful colour and ſhape, not ſo large as a common duck. It has a coulter bill of a red colour, with a white ſtripe acroſs. Its food is fiſh. The moſt diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of this bird, is, that the time of its appearance and departure is as regularly fixed, as that of the ſtork. About the 8th day of May, a few emiſſaries appear on the iſland. As theſe generally find all quiet, they do not return; and the great flock comes to the place on the 12th. They hatch in burrows under ground. When the country people go thither to fiſh, they catch ſome of them. The poor bird finding the hand of the enemy about to enter its abode, puſhes out the egg, and retires farther in; but the covetous depredator is ſeldom ſatisfied with that offering; but carries away the bird alſo. On, or about the 1ſt of

Auguſt,

Auguſt, they all depart, and are not ſeen again for three quarters of a year.—In that iſland there are a few of the fowl called, by naturaliſts, the ſmall petterell. It appears to be the leaſt of aquatic birds;—not larger than a ſtarling. It is of a black colour, and much more lively in its flight and motions on the ground, than water fowls generally are. The upper mandible at the point, goes crooked over the lower. There is a protuberance at the roof of it, in which the noſtrils are fixed. It is a very uncommon bird, and is moſt frequently ſeen at ſea. Mariners ſay, that it follows ſhips in their wake for many days. The vulgar name, they give them, is, *Mother Cary's Chickens.*

Church and Stipend.——The church was built 200 years ago; and, of late, has gone much out of repair. The manſe was built 13 years ago. The value of the living, including the glebe, is L. 80.——The king is patron.——All the inhabitants are of the Eſtabliſhed church, except 2 or 3 Roman Catholics.

Population.—The antient ſtate of the population, in this, and many of the neighbouring pariſhes, cannot be aſcertained, no proper or accurate regiſter having ever been kept. In 1755, the return to Dr Webſter, was 1572 ſouls. The amount of the population now is 2065. The number of males is 999; of females 1066. All reſide in the country. Both men and women frequently live to the age of 80. There are ſome men above 90; very few reach 100.——The people are moſtly employed in huſbandry. There are alſo ſome handicraftſmen; but there is ſo little work for them, that they live poorly when they happen to have no land. No men of landed property reſide here, the whole pariſh belonging to Lord M'Donald; but the principal farmers are well e-

ducated

ducated and well informed; and there are many officers of the army, who have retired here on half pay, after having bravely ſerved their country, who poſſeſs all thoſe polite and elegant accompliſhments, by which their profeſſion is diſtinguiſhed.

In former times, the ſmall-pox frequently prevailed to a very great height, and ſometimes almoſt depopulated the country. The people in general are now ſo well convinced of the propriety of inoculation, that it is become the practice univerſally, and many uſeful lives are ſaved by it. None have died from want ſince 1688. The ſeaſons were then ſo eminently unfavourable to the growth of corn, that the quantity was not only ſmall, but deficient in its nutritive quality; ſo that the poor actually periſhed on the highways, for want of aliment. This country has been often in diſtreſs ſince that time, but not to ſuch an extreme degree.——— About 20 years ago, ſome families emigrated from this pariſh to America, but none ſince. The revolution in that country, has ſent home to us lately, a few of our friends. The pariſh affords ſufficient employment for all the inhabitants; but many of the young men, notwithſtanding, to the great detriment of this part of the country, go to the ſouth of Scotland, to earn higher wages. At the ſame time, the reward for labour was never ſo high here as at preſent; and the product of that labour not riſing proportionally in value; the farmers find ſervants wages to be a ſerious and diſtreſſing affair, though the ſums they pay, are not equal to thoſe given farther ſouth.

Produce.—The vegetables raiſed here, are ſuch as are uſual in the ſouth of Scotland, and they thrive equally well, both in our gardens and fields. Any trees, which have been planted near the ſea, have failed. They flouriſhed till they roſe higher than

than the wall which fenced them, and then withered.—This pariſh has more land, employed in raiſing corn, than any other in this iſland. In the particular diſtrict in which the incumbent lives, the eye can at one view ſee four miles, which look like one continued field of corn, there not being the ſmalleſt portion of muir within that extent. The reſt of the pariſh alſo, is well enough calculated for the production of corn, though not equal to this part. It ſupplies itſelf with proviſion, and in plentiful years it furniſhes oatmeal to thoſe adjacent: but when the crop happens to fail, the inhabitants live worſe than thoſe in other pariſhes. The flatneſs of the country, diſqualifying it for breeding ſheep; and their fineſt fields being in tillage, ſummer graſs is rendered more ſcarce, and leſs productive of milk. When meal, therefore, their chief ſupport, is not abundant, there is but little elſe to ſupply the deficiency; and when it is very ſcarce, as happened in the year 1778, the people are deeply diſtreſſed.——They ſow in March, April, and the beginning of May, and reap from the 20th of Auguſt to the 20th of October. In 1782 and 1783, the crop failed, and the people were in a very bad ſituation, till a ſupply of meal, (which ſold at a very high price), was brought from Banff and Murray.

Poor.——The number of poor, receiving alms, is about 60. The funds for their ſupply are very trifling, conſiſting only of a few halfpence, collected on Sunday, and fines exacted from delinquents; ſo that the Seſſion cannot give them; at an average, above 3s. or 3s 6d at moſt, *per annum*, a piece, even to the moſt diſtreſſed, and ſtill leſs to others. They are therefore principally ſupported by the generoſity of the people at large; and a heavy burden it is. The whole poor's funds do not exceed L. 7. or L. 8. a year.

Prices of Proviſion and Labour.—There are no regular markets but for live cattle, which ſell at various prices, according to their quality. Butter fetches 10s, per ſtone, (tron weight, or 24 lb.) and cheeſe 4s. This being a plentiful year, (an. 1790), the boll of oatmeal, conſiſting of 16 pecks, ſells for 13s 4d. ſmall mutton for 5s. and ſome for 6s. each, common fowls, even when lean, are ſold at 6d.——A day's wages to a labourer in huſbandry, &c. are from 6d. to 8d. excluſive of victuals. Carpenters and tailors uſually make a charge for a whole piece or job of work. When a common labourer is married, he has liberty to build a houſe on his maſter's farm; and he gets graſs for a certain number of cows and ſheep, as they fix on. The maſter, with his plough and ſervants, tills and harrows as much ground as will contain the quantity of oat ſeed, (perhaps two bolls) ſpecified in the agreement; beſides which, a ſmall portion of ground is allotted for a little barley, and potatoes. With theſe the wife and children of the cottager live eaſy, and he gets victuals and ſhoes for himſelf, from his maſter. But it is only with gentlemen farmers, that labourers are hired on ſuch terms.——Male ſervants have from L 3. to L. 5 ſterling *per annum*, and female ſervants from 10s. to 30s. with victuals and ſhoes. The common people employ their ſervants in huſbandry, and domeſtic affairs, by turns, as occaſion requires.

Agriculture.—There is a great number of ploughs in the periſh. They differ a little in ſhape from the low country ploughs, but are drawn after the ſame manner by four horſes. No oxen are uſed. The ſmall tenants uſe the plough, only in weak ground, about the end of ſpring. They have a notion, which cannot eaſily be removed, but which they ſay is amply confirmed by experience, that plowed land does not produce near the quantity of corn, that it would do, if tilled with an

inſtrument of great antiquity in the Highlands, called a crooked ſpade, and wrought with manual labour. Granting the fact to be as they ſtate it, the expence of tillage, in this way, is ſo great, that the return, it is preſumed, is ſcarcely adequate to it. All the farms are incloſed, and ſeparated from each other, by march dykes; and the whole pariſh, therefore, may be ſaid to be incloſed. The people are very ſenſible of the advantages, nay, of the indiſpenſible neceſſity of incloſing.

Eminent Men.——This pariſh has given birth to many eminent perſons of the noble family of M'Donald, by far the moſt numerous and powerful of the Highland clans. Among thoſe, who are now no more, the late Sir James M'Donald ſtands eminently diſtinguiſhed. His character has juſtly been accounted one of the moſt eſtimable in modern times. His natural parts were of a very ſuperior order; and they were greatly improved by a liberal education at home, and by all the advantages of foreign travel. He died at Rome in July, 1766, in the 24th year of his age, univerſally regretted, both by his countrymen, and by foreigners, who contended with each other, who ſhould pay the greateſt marks of reſpect to his merit and his virtues.

Miſcellaneous Facts and Obſervations.——There is abundance of free ſtone and common ſtone, which the people uſe in building their houſes. Some lime ſtone, of a moſt excellent quality, is found on the neighbouring ſhore, but difficult to quarry, being a long continuation of a very ſolid flat rock, which is expoſed to view, when the tide ebbs. There are the remains of Popiſh chapels, in many places; and there are 6 Daniſh forts, as they are called. It is probable, however, that theſe were rather places, from which, by means of fire,

or ſome other ſignal, notice was given of the approach of an enemy, than uſed for the purpoſes of defence. The Gaelic language is principally ſpoken, more eſpecially by the lower ranks; but moſt of the names of places are derived from the Daniſh or Norwegian. Peat is the only fuel uſed here.

The people of this country, and indeed of all the Weſtern Highlands, have ſignalized themſelves, in the laſt, and in the former wars, by their valour, and their ability in bearing every ſpecies of hardſhip and fatigue. They are poſſeſſed of vivacity and penetration in a high degree. Their general ſize is from 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet. The greateſt height, that any has attained is 6 feet 4 inches. There are no manufactures, but of ſuch coarſe cloths and linens, as the country people wear. The inhabitants are very economical, induſtrious, and humane. In the ſeafaring line, they are not particularly active. There is a ſmall boat or two, in every farm on the coaſt, for the purpoſe of fiſhing; but they are ſeldom launched. Crimes are rarely committed. About 25 years ago, a man was overtaken with a ſtolen ſheep on his ſhoulder, by two neighbouring tenants. The thief declared to them, that this was his firſt treſpaſs; and offered a reward, if they would keep it a profound ſecret. But they declined to accept of the one, or to do the other. The ſheep was ſet at liberty; and the poor wretch hung himſelf, next morning, to the roof of his own houſe.

There is not a ſingle bridge in the pariſh. In former times, the roads were quite neglected, until within theſe few years, when a great number of the principal perſons in the diſtrict, were made Juſtices of the Peace, who all unite, in ſeeing the roads properly attended to; and their efforts are crowned with ſucceſs. At firſt, they exacted the ſtatute labour in kind; but, finding that method not ſo efficacious, they commuted it into money.

In a low valley, there is a ſmall hill, ſhaped like a houſe, and covered with ſmall trees, or rather ſhrubs, of natural growth. At one ſide of it, there is a lake of ſoft water, from which there is no viſible diſcharge. Its water finds many paſſages through the hill, and makes its appearance, on the other ſide, in a great number of ſprings, of the very pureſt kind: They all run into an oval baſon below, which has a bottom of white ſand, and is the habitation of many ſmall fiſh. From that pond, the water runs, in a copious ſtream, to the ſea. At the ſide of this rivulet, there is a bath, made of ſtone, and concealed from public view, by ſmall trees ſurrounding it. Its name is Loch Shiant, or the ſacred lake. There was once a great reſort of people, afflicted with ailments, to this place. They bathed themſelves, and drank of the water, though it has no mineral quality; and, on a ſhelf, made for the purpoſe, in the wall of a contiguous incloſure, they left offerings of ſmall rags, pins, and coloured threads, to the divinity of the place.

At the northern termination of the ridge of mountains before-mentioned, there is a moſt curious concealed valley: It is on all ſides ſurrounded with high rocks, and acceſſible to man or beaſt only in three or four places. A perſon, ſeeing the top of theſe rocks, could never imagine that they ſurrounded ſo great a ſpace of ground In barbarous times, when perpetual feuds and diſcords, ſubſiſted between the clans, to ſuch a degree, that life and moveable property could not be ſecure, when the approach of an enemy was announced, the weakeſt of the inhabitants, with all the cattle, were ſent into that ſecret aſylum, where ſtrangers could never diſcover them, without particular information. It is ſo capacious as to hold, (but not to paſture for any length of time) 4000 head of cattle. It is juſtly accounted a very great natural curioſity.

About

About half a mile from the church, there is a mineral well, of the chalybeate kind, but not much reſorted to.

Fifty years ago, the old Highland dreſs univerſally prevailed. ——Hats, long coats, boots, ſpurs, watches, &c. were rare. Now, every gentleman wears them; and perſons of ſubſtance, of both ſexes, dreſs as faſhionably, and live in a ſtile as elegant, as thoſe of the ſame rank in the ſouthern parts of Scotland. The common people, in general, ſtill wear the Highland garb, and adhere more cloſely, to ancient cuſtoms and manners, than their ſuperiors. All the ſuperſtitious and deluſive notions, however, which formerly accompanied popery, have entirely vaniſhed; and the people's ideas of religion and morality, are rational and ſolid.

NUMBER XLIX.

PARISH OF ROSSKEEN.

(COUNTY OF ROSS.)

By the Rev. MR. URQUHART.

Origin of Name, Situation, &c.

THE pariſh of Roſskeen does not furniſh much room for ſtatiſtical inveſtigation.——The name ſeems to be derived from the Gaelic word *Coinnea*, ſignifying a meeting or junction, and *Roſs-coinnea* may denote the place, where the diſtricts of Eaſter and Weſter Roſs join,(which is at the weſter boundary of this pariſh,) and where the inhabitants might occaſionally aſſemble. It is centrical in point of diſtance betwixt the two royal burghs of Tain and Dingwal.—The pariſh belongs to the preſbytery of Tain, and ſynod of Roſs.——— Its extent, ſo far as it is inhabited, may be from the ſhore to the hills, about 10 meaſured miles, and its average breadth about 6.

Surface and Soil.——The lower part of the pariſh, which extends along the firth of Cromarty, and for 2 miles back, lies on a gentle and eaſy aſcent to the bottom of the firſt hills. The ſoil varies, being partly gravelly and light, partly loam;

and

and ſome a deep and ſtrong clay. A hill called Knock-Navic, or the cold Hill, divides the lower from the Highland part of the pariſh. In the higher parts, the arable land is wet and ſpungy; the ſoil light, and more adapted for paſturage than for the plough. Beyond the higher arable ground, and inhabited glens, there is a very conſiderable tract of mountains, fit for no other purpoſe, than the ſummer paſturage of a few black cattle, which, perhaps, might be converted with much advantage, into ſheep walks.

Improvements.——About 60 years, ago there were no plantations of any kind within this pariſh, and no natural woods, excepting about the place of Ardroſs. But ſince that period, by the continued attention of Sir William Gordon, and his ſon, Sir John Gordon of Invergordon, a very extenſive, well wooded, and beautiful place, has been formed about Invergordon caſtle, now the ſeat of Mr M'Leod, of Cadboll.—— The eſtate of Milncraig has alſo had very extenſive plantations made upon it, and a conſiderable farm about the houſe, has been effectually incloſed and ſubdivided.——There are other conſiderable plantations of the Scottiſh fir, in a very thriving condition, on other properties within the pariſh.

A circumſtance, which well merits notice, in an account of this kind, is, that the pariſh is peculiarly fortunate in the means of future improvement, from a moſt extenſive and rich bed of ſhell-marle, of above 70 acres extent, which lies in the middle of the lower diſtrict, on the property of Munro of Culrain, is of eaſy acceſs, and can be procured at the pit, ready thrown out, at 3d. per boll. Its fertilizing quality has been amply proved on the farm of Milncraig, in its neighbourhood; but, from the ſtrange and unaccountable prejudices of the lower claſs of people, to any ſpecies of innovation on their own plan of management, it is, as yet, in very little requeſt. 'Tis pity

that

that ſome ſkilful farmer of ſpirit, from thoſe diſtricts where marle is much uſed, did not take ſome of the capital farms in this neighbourhood. While he enriched himſelf, he might teach others how to add conſiderably to the means of their ſubſiſtence, and to the improvement of their country.

Population.——The population of the pariſh, as returned to Dr Webſter in 1755, was 1958 ſouls. There are now in it 1400 examinable perſons above, and 300 under 6 years of age. The births are, at an average, from 40 to 50 *per annum*. No accurate account of deaths and marriages can be given. The number of inhabitants has of late been much increaſed, by a ſpecies of cottagers, here called meallers, who build a ſmall houſe for themſelves, on a waſte ſpot of ground, with the conſent of the proprietor, and there, are ready to hire themſelves out as day-labourers. At their ſpare hours, they trench and improve ſmall bits of the muir around them, which they firſt plant with potatoes, and afterwards ſow with grain. Though their improvements, taken individually, are trifling and ſlow, yet in the aggregate, they amount, in a courſe of years, to ſomething conſiderable. They pay hardly any conſideration to the landlord, during the life of the firſt ſettler. But, upon the whole, it is obſerved, that from their labour, and the induſtry of their wives and children, they live more comfortably, than thoſe in a ſuppoſed ſuperior claſs, and enjoy perfect independence.

Rents.——Lands in general are let in this pariſh, from 10s to 12s. per acre, of arable, though, on ſome ſituations, near the ſhore, they draw from 15s. to 20s. and 21s. In the heights of the pariſh, the value is not aſcertained by the acre, but by the joint judgement of the tenant and landlord.

Climate and Longevity.—The climate varies in different parts of the pariſh; it is often mild and temperate, and all kinds of farm work can be carried on in the lower part of the pariſh, when, in the heights, theſe operations are interrupted by hard froſt, or a fall of ſnow.——It is, however, upon the whole, a healthy pariſh, and many inſtances occur of great longevity. There are at preſent many inhabitants, both male and female, above 80 years of age; and, what is remarkable, there are 3 members of the ſeſſion, whoſe combined ages amount, at this time, to 260 years.

School.—The parochial ſchool has been built near the Neſs of Invergordon, which affords the village there another advantage. It is, however, far from being centrical, and is, from that circumſtance, much leſs attended, than otherwiſe it would be. The ſchool houſe, and accommodation for the teachers, are ſufficiently commodious. The ſchoolmaſter's ſalary is about L. 15 per annum, which, with perquiſites uſually attached to the ſituation, makes it worth about L. 25, per annum.

Poor.——The number on the poors liſt is 70, which are divided into claſſes, according to the degree of their reſpective neceſſities; and the very ſmall fund, allotted for their relief, is divided quarterly amongſt them.——In this pariſh, there is hardly any fund, but the collections made in the church, after performance of divine worſhip: and as very few, indeed, of the heritors reſide in the pariſh, this ſeldom exceeds L. 10 *per annum*, from which there is a deduction of L. 2:10 ſterling to the ſeſſion-clerk, and a very conſiderable one for bad halfpence, collected; ſo that the ſhare of each poor perſon muſt be very ſmall.

The ſtate of the poor's funds, in the generality of the pa-

riſhes in the north of Scotland, are very inadequate to the end, and few more ſo than this one.——It were much to be wiſhed, that ſome plan could be deviſed for the increaſe of the funds for the relief of the neceſſitous poor, in ſuch caſes as the one under conſideration, without ſubjecting the kingdom, to the heavy burden of a general tax.

Patron, &c.—The Earl of Cromarty was patron of this pariſh, before the forfeiture in 1746. The preſent incumbent was ſettled on a royal preſentation in 1783, before the reſtoration of the annexed eſtates took place.——Captain M'Kenzie of Cromarty, couſin german, and heir of the late Lord M'Leod, is now the patron.———The manſe is a modern one, and, together with the kirk, kirk-yard dyke, its offices, and the pariſh ſchool, were all put in complete repair, in the years 1780, 1781, and 1782. Very few country pariſhes have their public buildings in neater, or more complete order.—— The value of the living depends, in ſome degree, on the price of grain, as it conſiſts of 80 bolls of bear, and L. 50 ſterling of money. There are two ſmall glebes, one adjoining the manſe, of 4 Engliſh acres of good and fertile ſoil; the other is contiguous to the ruins of an old kirk, called Nonekill, (or the cell or temple of St. Ninian,) and conſiſts of above an acre and a half, in 3 different diviſions, which are let by the miniſter to a tenant in the neighbourhood.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.—The Gaelic language is univerſally ſpoken, by the country people in this, as well as all the other pariſhes of this preſbytery; but it is worthy of remark, that, though that language does not ſeem to be loſing ground in this pariſh, many more read and underſtand the Engliſh language, than did ſome years ago; a circumſtance which is

to

to be attributed to the Society's ſchools, which have been endowed in the height of the pariſh.

There are unbounded tracts of excellent peat moſs in the higher, and ſome moſſes of conſiderable extent in the lower diſtrict of the pariſh.——No ſpecies of manufacture has as yet found its way to this part of the country, though few ſituations are to be found ſo well adapted for their introduction.

There is a village of ſome extent upon the Neſs of Invergordon, on a dry heathy beach, where veſſels of 100 tons burden can lye with ſafety, moſt ſeaſons of the year, and receive or deliver their cargoes cloſe to the ſhore.

Services of tenants are in general converted, at the rate of one ſixteenth part of the annual land rent. The rents in general are paid in kind, or in bear or barley, and oat meal, with kains or cuſtoms.

The rent of the pariſh may be about L. 2000 ſterling, converting the boll of bear and meal at 12s.

The ſpinning of linen yarn is carried on to a conſiderable extent, though, it muſt be ſaid, with very little advantage to the people, or to the country, it being done by commiſſion from more ſouthern diſtricts, whither the yarn is tranſmitted to be wove, or otherwiſe manufactured; ſo that, by paſſing through ſo many hands, each of whom muſt have a ſmall profit, little can be afforded to the ſpinners, who, though expert and induſtrious, do not earn above 2½, or at moſt, 3d a day, from their labour. But this perhaps may be ſoon altered, as Mr M'Leod, the proprietor of the village above mentioned, is willing to encourage ſettlers, for that purpoſe, and gives perpetual feus of ground, ſufficient for a houſe and ſmall garden, on moderate terms. They may alſo have as many acres of land in leaſe, as they may find it convenient to cultivate.——

Coals and lime are brought to their door by sea. Peat, and timber for building, are to be had on moderate terms, nigh at hand. So that very few situations, indeed, in the North of Scotland, seem better adapted for a manufacturing village, than the Ness of Invergordon.

NUMBER

NUMBER L.

UNITED PARISHES OF MID AND SOUTH YELL.

(IN SHETLAND.)

By the Rev. MR. ANDREW DISHINGTON *.

Situation, Extent, &c.

THE united parishes of Mid and South Yell, are situated in one of the most northerly of the Shetland islands.—They extend, from north to south, above ten miles, and, from east to west, about six. They contain in all about 1100 marks land, (as it is here called,) which will not much exceed 500 Scots acres. The arable land principally consists of some cultivated spots, lying along the sea-coast. The inland parts of the island are mostly hills, covered with peat moss. There is very little heath, but abundance of a rough sort of grass, here

* This is the minister, in whose favour, the late Sir Hew Darymple, of North Berwick, made an application to the late Sir Laurence Dundas, in a letter, which has already appeared in several late periodical publications, but which the reader will probably be glad to see reprinted, together with one from Mr Dishington himself, which

here called Lubbo, which grows naturally, and affords very tolerable paſture for ſheep, horſes, and black cattle.

In

which explains in how accidental a manner, the application was originally brought about, and by what a fortuitous accident it was prevented from proving abortive, though it failed in regard to the particular living at firſt applied for.

Copy of a Letter from SIR HEW DALRYMPLE *to* SIR LAURENCE DUNDAS.

DEAR SIR, *Dalzell, May* 24. 1775.

HAVING ſpent a long life, in purſuit of pleaſure and health, I am now retired from the world in poverty, and with the gout; ſo, joining with Solomon, that "all is vanity and vexation of ſpirit," I go to church, and ſay my prayers.

I aſſure you, that moſt of us religious people reap ſome little ſatisfaction, in hoping, that you wealthy voluptuaries have a fair chance of being damn'd to all eternity; and that Dives ſhall call out for a drop of water to Lazarus, one drop of which he ſeldom taſted, when he had the twelve Apoſtles, (*twelve hogſheads of claret*) in his cellar.

Now, Sir, that doctrine being laid down, I wiſh to give you, my friend, a loop hole to creep through. Going to church laſt Sunday, as uſual, I ſaw an unknown face in the pulpit, and riſing up to prayers, as others do upon like occaſions, I began to look around the church, to find out if there were any pretty girls there; when my attention was attracted by the foreign accent of the parſon. I gave him my attention, and had my devotion awakened, by the moſt pathetic prayer I ever heard. This made me all attention to the ſermon; a finer diſcourſe never came from the lips of a man. I returned in the afternoon, and heard the ſame preacher exceed his morning work, by the fineſt chain of reaſoning, conveyed by the moſt eloquent expreſſions. I immediately thought of what Agrip-

pa

In theſe pariſhes, there are ſeveral good harbours; particularly Mid-Yell-Voe, Hamna-Voe, and Burra-Voe.

The

pa ſaid to Paul, "almoſt thou perſuadeſt me to be a Chriſtian." I ſent to aſk the man of God to honour my roof, and dine with me. I aſked him of his country, and what not: I even aſked him, if his ſermons were his own compoſition, which he affirmed they were. I aſſured him, I believed it, for never man had ſpoke or wrote ſo well. "My name is Diſhington," ſaid he. "I am an aſſiſtant to "an old miniſter in the Orkneys, who enjoys a fruitful benefice of "50l a year, out of which I am allowed 20l for preaching, and "inſtructing 1200 people, who live in two ſeparate iſlands; out "of which I pay, 1 l. 5s. to the boatman, who tranſports me from "the one to the other. I ſhould be happy, could I continue in "that terreſtrial paradiſe; but we have a great Lord, who has "many little people ſoliciting him, for many little things, that he "can do, and that he cannot do; and if my miniſter dies, his ſuc-"ceſſion is too great a prize, not to raiſe up many powerful rivals, "to baulk my hopes of preferment."

I aſked him, if he poſſeſſed any other wealth. "Yes," ſays he, "I married the prettieſt girl in the iſland; ſhe has bleſſed me with "three children, and as we are both young, we may expect more. "Beſides, I am ſo beloved in the iſland, that I have all my peats "brought home, carriage free."

This is my ſtory,—now to the prayer of my petition. I never before envied you the poſſeſſion of the Orkneys, which I now do, only to provide for this eloquent, innocent apoſtle. The ſun has refuſed your barren iſles his kindly influence;—do not deprive them of ſo pleaſant a preacher:—let not ſo great a treaſure be for ever loſt to that damn'd inhoſpitable country; for I aſſure you, were the archbiſhop of Canterbury to hear him, or hear of him, he would not do leſs than make him an archdeacon. The man has but one weakneſs, that of preferring the Orkneys to all the earth.

This way, and no other, you have a chance for ſalvation.---Do this man good, and he will pray for you. This will be a better

purchaſe

The people are, in general, healthy; and instances of longevity are not unfrequent.

Population.

purchase, than your Irish estate, or the Orkneys. I think it will help me forward too, since I am the man, who told you of the man so worthy and deserving; so pious, so eloquent, and whose prayers may do so much good, Till I hear from you on this head,
Your's, in all meekness, love, andbenevolence,

H. D.

P. S. Think what an unspeakable pleasure it will be, to look down from heaven, and see Rigby, Masterton, all the Campbells and Nabobs, swimming in fire and brimstone, while you are sitting with Whitefield, and his old women, looking beautiful, frisking, and singing; all which you may have by settling this man, after the death of the present incumbent.

Letter from MR DISHINGTON, *to* SIR JOHN SINCLAIR.

SIR, *Edinburgh, August 2d*, 1791.

THO' it may seem ridiculous for one to talk of his own private concerns, I hope, I may without incurring the censure of egotism, or vanity, be allowed to lay before you the following narrative, which may serve as an explanation of Sir Hew Dalrymple's letter. In the year 1776, being an assistant to a minister in the Orkneys, who was then in a very ill state of health, I went to Edinburgh, to try, if possible, to secure the survivancy, and to be appointed his successor. In this attempt being disappointed, I went to pay a visit to Mr Thomas Hepburn, minister at Athelstaneford, with whom I had contracted an intimacy in my early years, and from whom I had often experienced every mark of the most sincere friendship. Indeed, it is but justice to his memory, to observe, that he was the friend and patron of young men, who had none to recommend them,

Population.——The population of theſe pariſhes, has, of late years, conſiderably increaſed. For this, two reaſons may be aſſigned;—1. The ſyſtem, adopted by the landholders, of parcelling out their lands into very ſmall farms, for the purpoſe of having as great a number of perſons on their property, as poſſible, who can be occaſionally employed in fiſhing, from the produce of which, their principal profit ariſes.—2. The amazing ſucceſs, with which inoculation has been attended. Formerly, the ſmall-pox occaſioned the moſt dreadful ravages,

1 in

them, or to introduce them into the world. One Saturday evening, when I happened to be with him at Athelſtaneford, he received a letter from one of his brethren, informing him, that being on his way to pay Mr Hepburn a viſit, and preach for him next day, he had unfortunately fallen from his horſe, and received a ſlight hurt in his ſhoulder. At the ſame time, he deſired him, if any preachers were in the neighbourhood, to ſend one to officiate for him; upon which, I was diſpatched away on Sunday morning, and had the good fortune to be taken notice of, by my worthy and honourable friend, Sir Hew Dalrymple, whoſe letter to Sir Laurence Dundas procured me my preſent living.

Before my preſentation came to hand, I received a letter from Mr Hepburn, dated October 8th, 1776; a paragraph or two of which, as far as it reſpects the preſent ſubject, I here ſend you. "Dear Andrew, the laſt time I ſaw Sir Hew, he told me, he had "ſpoke to Sir Laurence Dundas, who told him, "Sir Hew, your "man ſhall get the firſt vacancy; and to ſhew you, that I am fixed in "this matter, I will tell you, that the Princeſs Amelia deſired the "favour of me, to give my firſt kirk to a young man of her recom-"mendation; I told her, I was ſorry I was pre-engaged. She aſk-"ed to whom? when I replied, to you, and ſhe ſaid, it was well, "for that it was for your man, ſhe was applying." This in the "days of the renowned Don Quixotte, or even in thoſe of mo-"dern chivalry, might paſs for enchantment; and I tell it you,

in theſe iſlands; frequently carrying off a fifth part of the inhabitants. Now, hardly any ſuffer by this diſorder. Inocution is ſucceſsfully practiſed, even by the common people; but in particular by a perſon, whoſe name is John Williamſon, who, from his various attainments, and ſuperior talents, is called

" that your ſoul may reſt at eaſe. Meanwhile, I charge you, and, " Meſſrs Lindſay and Laing, inſtantly to notify the firſt vacancy " to me, that I may inform Sir Hew Dalrymple, who is going to " winter at London. Whether I write you frequently or not, you " may believe, that no manh as your happineſs more at heart," &c.

After the preſentation came to hand, I was in danger of loſing all, by the *jure devoluto*: the ſix months ſince the deceaſe of my predeceſſor being near elapſed, at the end of which, the right of preſentation would have gone from the patron to the preſbytery. It was now the depth of winter, and, at that ſeaſon of the year, there is uſually no communication between Orkney and Shetland; when I had therefore given up all for loſt, a veſſel came into Papa Sound, in Orkney, very near the manſe, where I reſided; and, on making inquiry, I was told, it was the packet from Leith, on her way for Shetland. There again was another ſurprizing and uncommon circumſtance, for, it is very remarkable, that this ſame packet was never known to put into the Orkneys, either before or ſince that period. Not to trouble you any longer, with a detail of unintereſting circumſtances, I haſten to conclude with one general remark. Such a combination of fortuitous incidents, or what you pleaſe to call them, ſerved to impreſs on my mind, the truth of Cicero's obſervation, more forcibly, and with a more powerful effect, than a whole body of divinity, or 50,000 ſermons, preached by the moſt celebrated doctors of the church. " *Nec vero univerſo generi humano ſolum,* " *ſed etiam* SINGULIS, *Deus conſuli et provideri ſolet*.*"

I am, &c.

A. D.

* " Providence ſeems to watch over the happineſs; not only of " the human race in general, but even of individuals."

called *Johnny Notions*, among his neighbours. Unaſſiſted by education, and unfettered by the rules of art, he ſtands unrivalled in this buſineſs. Several thouſands have been inoculated by him, and he has not loſt a ſingle patient.

His ſucceſs being ſo remarkable, it may not be improper to take ſome notice of the method he purſues, in caſe it can furniſh any uſeful hints to perſons of the medical profeſſion. He is careful in providing the beſt matter, and keeps it a long time before he puts it to uſe,—ſometimes 7 or 8 years. And, in order to leſſen its virulence, he firſt dries it in peat ſmoak, and then puts it under ground, covered with camphor. Though many phyſicians recommend freſh matter, this ſelf-taught practitioner finds from experience, that it always proves milder to the patient, when it has loſt a conſiderable degree of its ſtrength. He uſes no lancet in performing the operation, but, by a ſmall knife, made by his own hands, he gently raiſes a very little of the outer ſkin of the arm, ſo that no blood follows: then puts in a very ſmall quantity of the matter, which he immediately covers with the ſkin, that had been thus raiſed. The only plaiſter he uſes, for healing the wound, is a bit of cabbage leaf. It is particularly remarkable, that there is not a ſingle inſtance in his practice, where the infection has not taken place, and made its appearance at the uſual time. He adminiſters no medicines during the progreſs of the diſeaſe; nor does he uſe any previous preparation.——He is a ſingular inſtance of an uncommon variety of talents, being a tailor, a joiner, a clock and watch-mender, a blackſmith, and a phyſician.

The return to Dr Webſter, in 1755, was 986 ſouls. The number at preſent is 1422. The annual average of marriages is from 10 to 12; of births, about 34; and of burials, about 11;—The average of births, for 8 years, ending in 1738, was only 27.

Rent,

Rent, &c.——The rent of the pariſh is ſuppoſed to be about L. 3210 Scots, or about L. 270 ſterling, which, however, is ſo much below its real value, that, when any land, in the pariſh, is ſold, it generally fetches about 50 years purchaſe. To account for this, it may not be improper to obſerve, that the rents, as paid by the tenants, give a very inadequate view of the landlord's income. For although it may be true, that the lands are let by the proprietor, or tackſman, at no higher rent, than what is above ſtated, yet it is invariably on this condition, that the tenant, or fiſhing farmer, ſhall deliver to his land-maſter, or order, every article, that he can raiſe, (viz. fiſh, oil, butter, &c.) at a certain fixed price; by the ſale of which, the landlord more than doubles his rent. As a proof of this, it may be ſtated, that two conſiderable landholders, finding it inconvenient for them, to receive their rents from their tenants, in this manner, (partly in money and partly in kind,) let their lands to tackſmen, who give, at leaſt, double the nominal rent paid by the tenants, and find their account in it. Other landholders, however, make more by receiving the tenants product themſelves, or by their ſervants under their own eye; and would not let their lands in large parcels, even for double the rent paid in money.

Occupations.——There are but few mechanics, or tradeſmen, in theſe pariſhes, the uſeful arts not having yet made their appearance here, in any great perfection. Wool, it is true, the ſtaple commodity of the country, ſo remarkable for its fineneſs and ſoftneſs, might be a ſource of induſtry and opulence; yet, in the way it has been hitherto been managed, it turns to very ſmall account. All the women, of every rank and diſtinction, are employed in ſpinning wool, and knitting fine and coarſe ſtockings, to their great loſs, and miſerable miſpending

miſpending of their time: For, if it were fairly calculated, they cannot earn, by this ſpecies of induſtry, three halfpence a day. The materials they conſume, in this gainful trade, might be manufactured into good cloths of all ſorts, which might ſerve all ranks for clothing, and put a ſtop to that pernicious rage they have for foreign fopperies. The ſpinning of lint, at the ſame time, might be introduced amongſt the women, to their great advantage.

Poor.——There are no funds here, for the ſupport of the poor, but what ariſe from the weekly collections, and the contributions at the diſpenſing of the ſacrament. When old and weakly, they are put on a quarter, or diſtrict; and go, from houſe to houſe, in the particular diſtricts of the pariſh allotted to them; the pariſh being divided into more or leſs quarters, according to the number of the poor. They are clothed, and the expence of their funerals defrayed, by the ſeſſion. The poor's funds were very inconſiderable, when the preſent miniſter was admitted to the cure; and, in conſequence of the great numbers of neceſſitous perſons, who were ſupplied from theſe funds, in the years of ſcarcity, they are, at this time, quite exhauſted.

Schools.——No public ſchools are as yet eſtabliſhed here, though, it muſt be acknowledged, that there is great need for them. Moſt of the people, however, can read pretty well, and many write.

Stipend, &c.——It is impoſſible to aſcertain the real value of the ſtipend, as it is payable in articles, the prices of which are very fluctuating. The ſtipend has been, of late, conſiderably augmented, and, at preſent, conſiſts of the following articles, beſides the glebe, viz. 178 liſpund and 10 merks butter

ter; 70 lambs and $\frac{5}{12}$ of a lamb, and 4 merks wool with every lamb; 211 ling and $\frac{4}{7}$ of a ling; 503 cans and $\frac{1}{2}$ can of oil; and L. 175 : 15 Scots in money; with an allowance of L. 40 Scots for communion elements. The manſe and office houſes were built in 1747, at the expence of L. 50 ſterling; and have been once repaired. On a late viſitation, the preſbytery granted decreet, for upwards of L. 100 ſterling, for another repair. The preſent incumbent was admitted miniſter in 1778, and has a wife and 10 children.

Miſcellaneous Obſervations.——The ſyſtem, now univerſally adopted, of parcelling out the lands into very ſmall portions, that the lairds may have a greater number of fiſhermen, greatly contributes to early marriages; ſo that, a bachelor is a very ſingular phenomenon in this country. They delve all their little farms with the ſpade, and have no need of any conſiderable ſtock to begin life; all that is required being a cow, a pot, a ſpade, a tuſker, a buthie, fiſhing rods, and a rug, or blanket. Thus, they increaſe in number, notwithſtanding their poverty. Both ſexes make a very decent and genteel appearance on Sundays. Though their crops, with the ſtricteſt economy, cannot maintain their families above 7 or 8 months in the year, yet, by the natural advantages they enjoy, of plenty of fuel, and immenſe quantities of ſmall fiſh, I may venture to affirm, that, they live fully as well, and many more comfortably, than the generality of the peaſants in Scotland. Though the face of the iſlands of Shetland, in general, and of Yell, in particular, (of which Buchanan ſays, *adeo fera, ut nullum animal, niſi illic natum, ferat,*) exhibits a very rude appearance, yet, improvements in agriculture are not at all impracticable; and, were due attention and encouragement given, there is no queſtion, but this country might produce as much corn as might ſerve the inhabitants. But fiſhing ſchemes

engroſs

engroſs all their attention; and, the people being poor, and not enjoying the benefit of long leaſes, until theſe obſtacles are removed, it is not to be imagined, that ever any remarkable exertions will take place among them, in cultivating the ground.

No veſtiges of any antiquities, excepting a few Pictiſh or Daniſh forts, &c. which merit no particular deſcription, are to be found here. It is moſt likely, that the Romans were utterly unacquainted with the Shetland Iſles. The Iſland of Fula was probably deſcried by them, from the Orkneys, in their circumnavigation of Britain, its name being ſo ſimilar to that of Thule, mentioned by Tacitus.

General Character.—The people, in general, are ſober and inoffenſive. Crimes of an atrocious nature are little known amongſt them. They are judicious, of a ready and acute underſtanding, capable of enduring great toil, cold, and hunger, *ſupra quam cuique credibile eſt*; run prodigious riſks, in going out 10 or 11 leagues into the ocean, on the ling and tuſk fiſhing, in ſmall ſix-oar'd boats, which, together with all their fiſhing materials, they provide at their own expence. They prove excellent ſeamen, when they go abroad; are much eſteemed in the Britiſh navy; and, conſidered in this point of view, well merit the attention and favour of government. This obſervation, indeed, may be applied, with equal juſtice, to Shetland in general. In religious matters, they enjoy a happy moderation and uniformity of ſentiment; their faith not being diſtracted by controverſy, nor ſectariſm infeſting their abodes.

APPENDIX.

SOME additional information having been received, with regard to the population of the town and parish of Ayr, inserted in the first volume of this work; and also, respecting the parish of Newton upon Ayr, which is included in this volume; it is thought proper to add that information, by way of Appendix.

1. AYR.

STATE of the Population of the Parish of Ayr, distinguishing the Number of Inhabitants in the Town and Country, their Age and Sex, the Natives of the Parish, and those born elsewhere.—From a Survey, taken in the Year 1791, by Mr L. M'Kechnie, Session Clerk of Ayr.

Inhabiting the Town.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Born in the parish.	Born elsewhere.
Under the age of 10	405	429			
From 10 to 60	1108	1517			
60 to 70	83	149			
70 to 80	60	73			
80 to 90	17	28			
90 to 100		2			
Carried over	1673	2198	3871	1838	2033

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Born in the parish	Born elsewhere.
Brought over	1673	2198	3871	1838	2033
Inhabiting the country.					
Under 10	85	81			
From 10 to 60	254	292			
60 to 70	17	23			
70 to 80	14	3			
80 to 90	4	1			
90 to 100		2			
	374	402	776	299	477
Total	2047	2600	4647	2137	*2510

2. NEWTON

* LIST of the 9 incorporated Trades of Ayr, distinguishing the Number of Masters, Journeymen, and Apprentices, employed in each.——From an Account taken by the Convener, in November, 1791.

	Masters.	Journeymen.	Apprentices.	Total.
Hammermen	24	16	24	64
Weavers	61	89	36	186
Dyers	6	4	2	12
Tailors	32	20	5	57
Squaremen	34	68	33	135
Shoemakers	25	27	10	62
Skinners	2	1	1	4
Coopers	12	5	5	22
Fleshers	14	16	4	34
	210	246	120	576

It appears, from their records, that the Dyers and Skinners were, about a century ago, among the most numerous corporations, and that the Coopers were, then, more numerous, owing to a considerable wine trade carried on with France.

Besides the above incorporated trades, there are, in the country part of the parish, 5 blacksmiths, 3 cart-wrights, and 2 taylors.

2. NEWTON UPON AYR.

THE following account is the reſult of a pretty accurate ſurvey of the population of Newton upon Ayr, made in the month of October, 1791.

Houſes inhabited	268	From 50 to 60	139
Do. uninhabited, (ſome of them in ruins)	20	—— 60 to 70	101
		—— 70 to 80	33
Families	408	—— 80 to 90	7
Souls	1689	Married pairs	298
Males	836	Unmarried men above 18	96
Females	853	Do. women above 16	165
Above 7 years of age	1391	Widows	90
Under do.	298	Widowers	28
From 7 to 14	252	Born in the pariſh	759
—— 14 to 20	216	Born out of the pariſh	930
—— 20 to 30	303	Of theſe, born in Ireland about	60
—— 30 to 40	165	——— and in England	14
—— 40 to 50	175		

From the above account, it will appear ſurpriſing, that the number of males and females ſhould be ſo nearly equal. But all thoſe who are at ſea, being included in the number of males, and many more men than women being employed in the weaving buſineſs, and at the coalleries, theſe circumſtances will, in a great degree, account for this equality. It is ſingular, that the number below 7 years of age, and of married pairs, ſhould be exactly the ſame. It may likewiſe be remarked, that if the pariſh does not increaſe in population, as it has done for 30 years, (which is not probable, as it has

been chiefly owing to the acceſſion of foreigners,) the number born in the pariſh, in a few years, will greatly exceed the number born out of it, which will be the reverſe of the above ſtatement. It is ſuſpected, that many more of the inhabitants have been born in Ireland, than 60; ſeveral of them being unwilling to tell the place of their birth, being poor, and afraid of being turned out of the town. Upon the whole, the average number to a family is about 4 ſouls, and the greateſt number, in the above diviſion of ages, is from 20 to 30.

Occupations of the Inhabitants, and the Number employed in each.

	Maſters.	Journeymen.	Apprentices.	Total.
Weavers	40	40	21	101
Wrights	8	11	6	25
Carpenters	5	13	6	24
Shoemakers	8	1	1	10
Shipmaſters	14	Sailors 51		65
Smiths	4	2	2	8
Stocking weavers	4	1	2	7
Coopers	1	1		2
Bakers	2	2		4
Salmon fiſhers, (ſome of whom are employed in the herring fiſhery, at certain ſeaſons of the year)				22
White fiſhers				26
Herring do.				12
Coalliers				24
Day labourers, (the moſt of whom are employed at the Newton and Blackhouſe coallieries)				57
Clothiers, or Dyers				3
Travelling chapmen, the moſt of whom are Iriſh people				11
Ropemakers				10
Braziers, or Tinkers, and Horners				5
Maſons				7

Land

Land labourers - - 5
Carriers - - - 9
In the character of female ſervants, many of whom reſide with their parents - - 59
Male ſervants - - - 3
Schoolmaſters - - - 3
Officers in the Cuſtoms, 3; and in the Exciſe, 2 5

Beſides theſe, there are 6 grocers, 2 carters, 2 tanners, 3 curriers, 4 ſkinners, 2 clock-makers, 2 toll-gatherers, 1 butcher, 1 barber, 1 gardener, 1 miller, 1 heel-maker, 1 maltman, 1 gun-ſmith, 1 meſſenger at arms, 1 muſician, and 1 drummer. Public houſes, 17. Horſes and carts, 36.

Religious Perſuaſions.

All the inhabitants belong to the Eſtabliſhed Church, except the following:

Antiburgher Seceders, families 15, individuals 40
Epiſcopalians, families 6, individuals - 20
Roman Catholics - - - 2
Methodiſts - - - 2
Moravian - - - 1
Burgher Seceder - - - 1
Cameronians - - 3

The inhabitants of the town of Ayr, amounting to 3781 ſouls, and that of Newton, which may be called its Southwark, to 1689, the capital of Ayrſhire may be ſaid to contain, in all, 5470 ſouls *.

* It may be proper to add, that by the conſtitution of the borough of Newton upon Ayr, the freedoms cannot be affected by the debts of the poſſeſſor, only the ſtanding crop on the ground may be arreſted: nor is the ſon and heir of a freeman, liable to be deprived of his freedom, on the death of his father, on account of his predeceſſors debts.

END OF VOLUME SECOND.



THE conſtitution of the borough of Newton upon Ayr, is certainly, *in theory*, the pureſt and beſt republican ſyſtem, any where to be met with. Nothing, at firſt ſight, can yield more ſatisfaction, to a mind capable of feeling for the happineſs of the ſpecies, than to find, that a community actually exiſts, whoſe government is founded on the generous principles of equality and independence In the whole courſe of this inveſtigation, nothing gave me more ſatisfaction, than the account of this diſtrict, as returned by the miniſter.——Upon farther inquiry, from various quarters in the neighbourhood, I learnt, however, with regret, that beautiful theories do not always anſwer in practice; and, in particular, that no beneficial conſequences could be traced from this conſtitution;—that the freemen were, in no reſpect, ſuperior to the inhabitants of other little boroughs;—that, in general, little attention was paid to their education, and that ſome of them could not read;—that no funds were allotted for the maintenance of the poor brethren;—that the place was reckoned almoſt a century behind other towns in point of improvement.——In regard to their property, That a conſiderable tract of ground, belonging to them, remained in common;—and, that no favourable preſage could be drawn, from the manner in which their ſmall poſſeſſions were cultivated;—for, that in a much incloſed country, their acres remained open, were kept conſtantly in tillage, and conſequently, in a ſtate greatly inferior to the lands of thoſe who held a larger extent of ground in their poſſeſſion, and whoſe rights were not liable to the ſame ſyſtem of reſtrictions.

Theſe curſory obſervations are thrown out on a ſubject of great political importance, which will afterwards be more fully inquired into, and, which the ſtatiſtical ſurvey of Scotland will probably be the means of aſcertaining, namely, "What "is the beſt mode of holdingthe landed property of a nation, "and of cultivating it to the beſt advantage?"

